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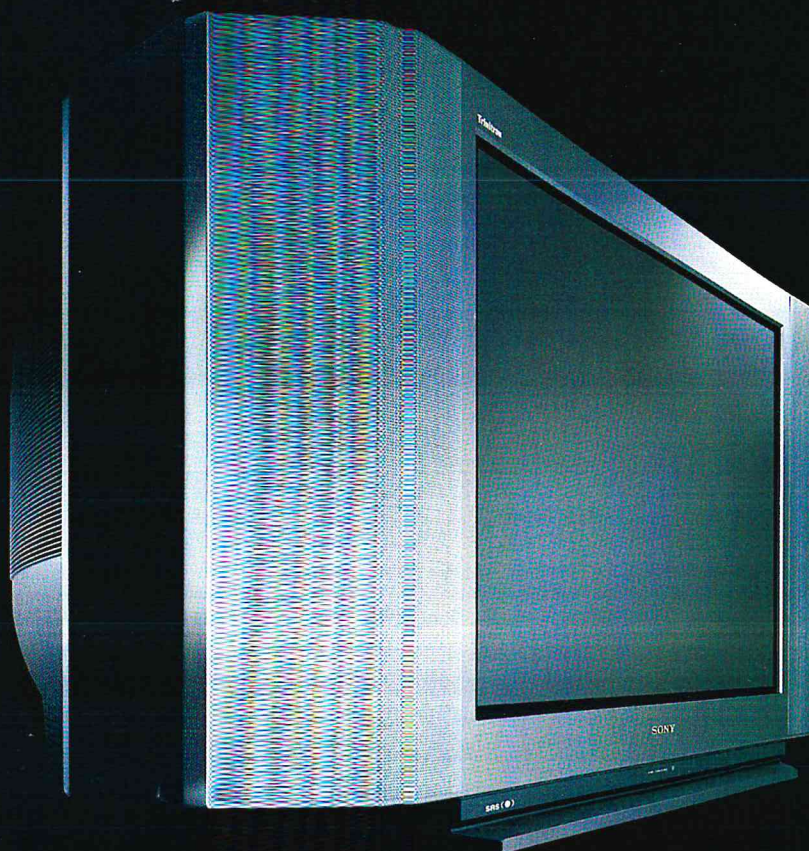
ESPN

A man with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue athletic shorts, is riding a blue and black stationary bike in a gym. He is looking down at a small screen on the bike's console. The gym background is dimly lit with various exercise equipment visible. On the far left, there is a vertical strip of colorful, distorted, rainbow-like patterns.

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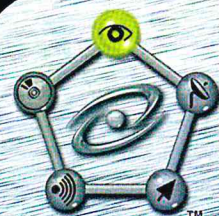
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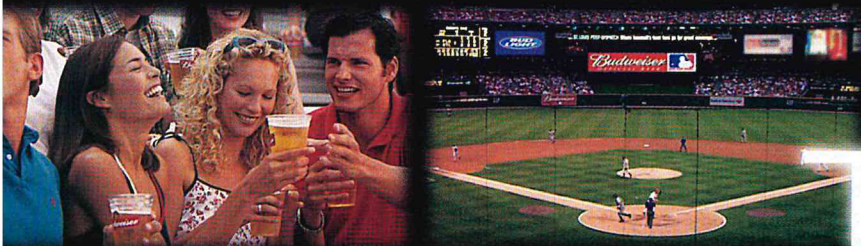
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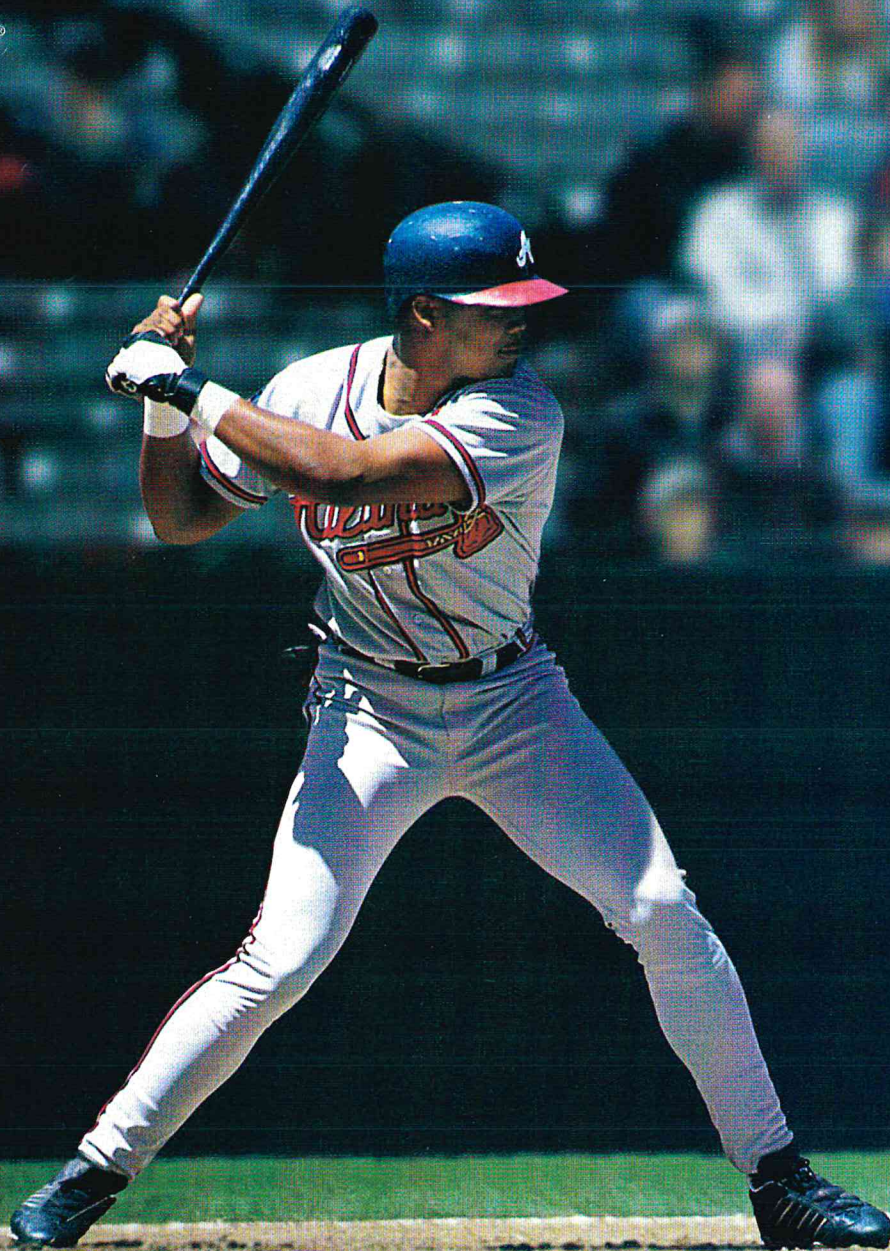


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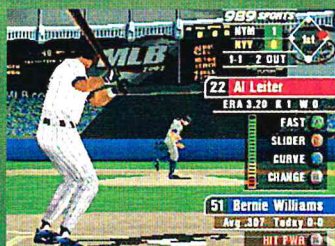
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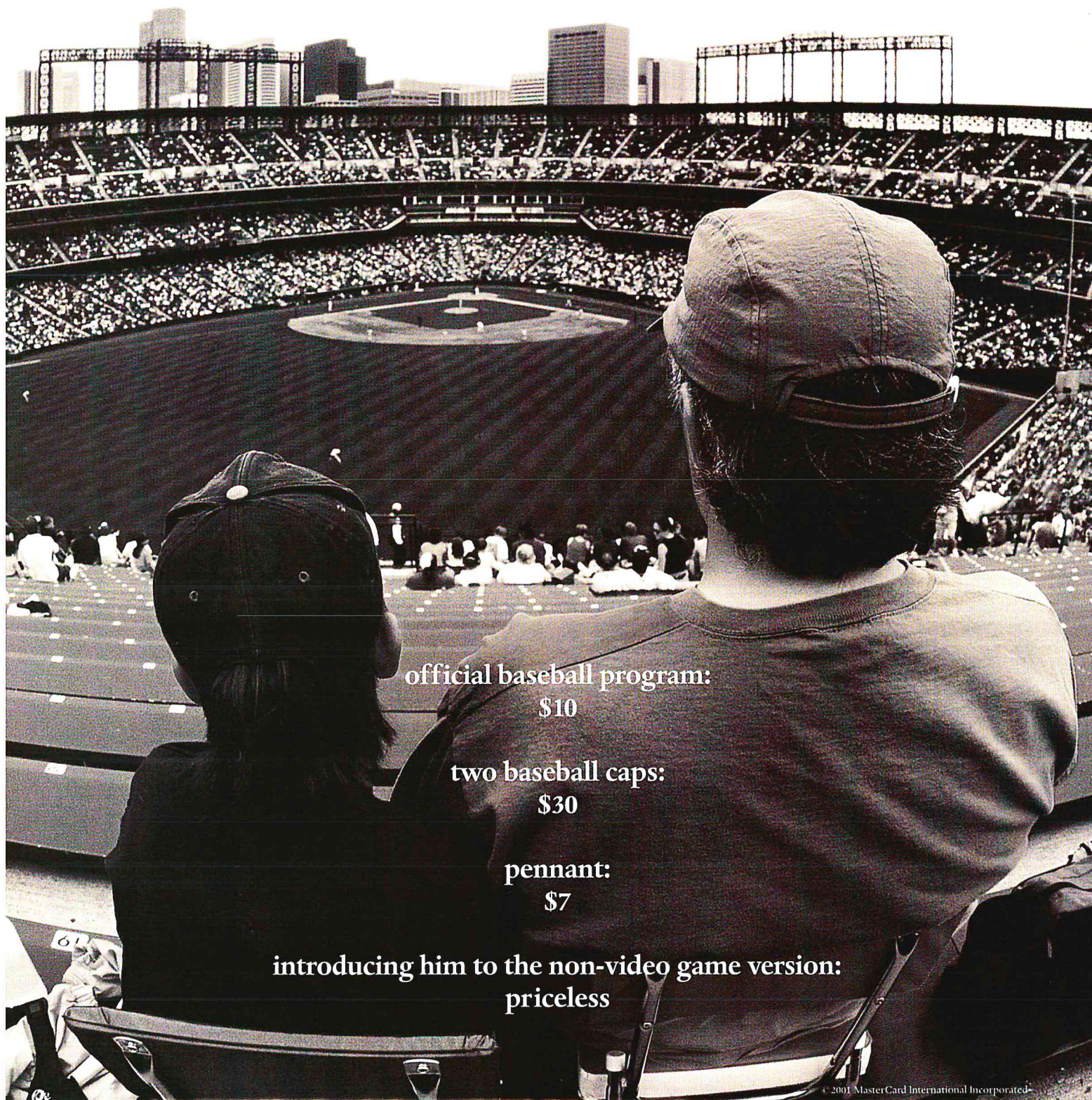
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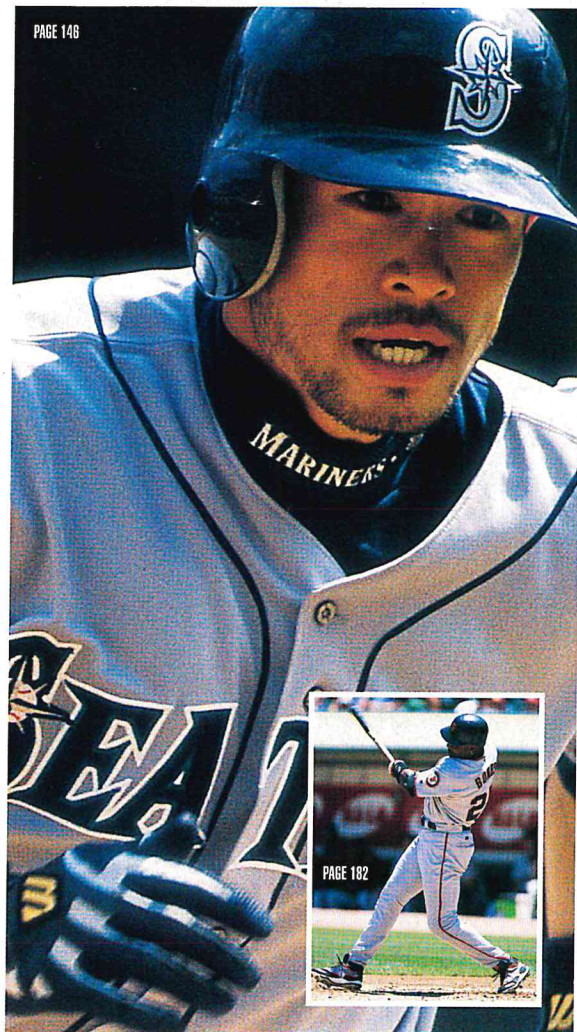
By Bruce Fretts

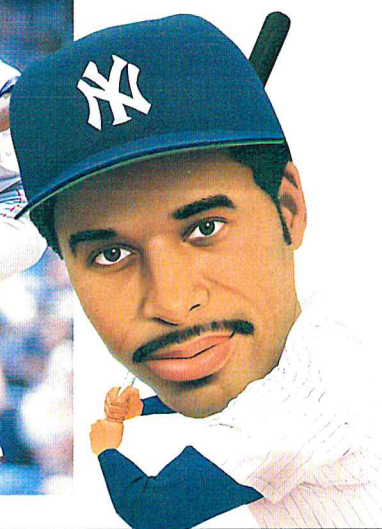
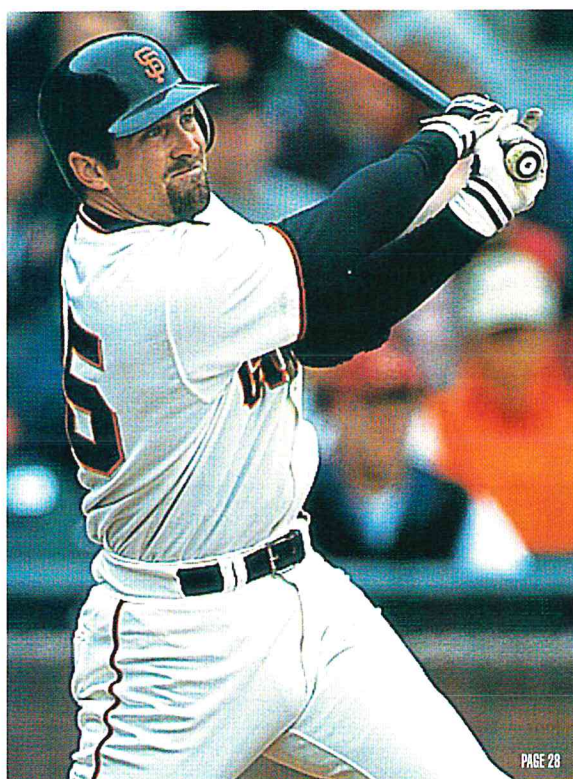
They may not have waltzed down the red carpet at the Oscars or Emmys, but many big leaguers have taken a swing at the big and small screen.

200 SULTANS OF SWING

By Eric Enders

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From the Commissioner



Office of the Commissioner
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



Dear Fans:

On behalf of Major League Baseball, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 72nd All-Star Game at Safeco Field.

Baseball, in its third century as a professional sport, continues to flourish, and its popularity around the globe has never been greater. Led by extraordinary and unprecedented accomplishments by many of the stars who will participate here in Seattle, baseball continues to build on its long history as it establishes a strong foundation for the future.

Major League Baseball is very pleased to be in "The Emerald City" for the 2001 Midsummer Classic. The people of Seattle have demonstrated a true love for the game, and I am delighted that the city will be showcased as the host of Major League Baseball's single-greatest summer event.

Since its inception in 1933, the All-Star Game has given baseball fans a unique and exciting opportunity to watch baseball's brightest stars competing against each other on the same field. In recent years, Major League Baseball has expanded the All-Star experience for fans by developing several events around the actual game. One of those events is the RadioShack All-Star Futures Game, which features top prospects from the Minor Leagues in a "USA vs. the World" format. The marquee event of Claritin All-Star Workout Day is the Century 21 Home Run Derby, which features many of baseball's greatest sluggers aiming for the fences. Fans have enjoyed remarkable performances in this event in recent years, including feats by Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire and Ken Griffey Jr.

I am confident that the 2001 All-Star Game will be another great event and will continue to be a passageway from baseball's celebrated past to the promise of its future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Allan H. Selig".

Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Commissioner of Baseball

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Major League Baseball Executives



Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Commissioner

Selig was named Commissioner of Baseball on July 9, 1998 by a unanimous vote of the 30 Major League Baseball club owners.

Prior to his election as Baseball's Commissioner, Selig served as Chairman of the Executive Council and was the central figure in Major League Baseball's organizational structure dating back to September 1992.

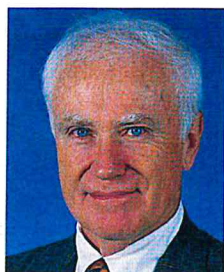
In that role, Selig was responsible for shaping Major League Baseball's historic revenue sharing agreement between large and small market clubs. He also has led the way toward implementation of many of the game's recent structural changes, including Interleague Play, the Wild Card playoff format, realignment and consolidation of the leagues' administrative functions.



Sandy Alderson
Executive VP, Baseball Operations

Alderson oversees baseball operations, umpiring, on-field operations and security and facility management. He's also in charge of various special projects involving interna-

tional play, including Major League Baseball's participation in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, where Team USA won the gold medal in baseball. Alderson joined MLB in October 1998 after 18 years with the Oakland A's as General Counsel (1981 to '83), General Manager (1983 to '97) and President (1997 to '98).



Bob DuPuy
Executive VP, Administration

DuPuy serves as Major League Baseball's chief legal officer. He oversees all administrative functions of Major League Baseball's central offices. He also serves as Chairman

of MLB Advanced Media, Major League Baseball's industry-wide internet company. DuPuy was a partner in the law firm Foley & Lardner before joining Major League Baseball in October 1998.



Paul Beeston
President and COO

Beeston was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Major League Baseball on July 22, 1997. He reports directly to Commissioner Selig and is responsible for all phases

of Baseball's central offices.

Prior to joining Major League Baseball, Beeston worked for the Toronto Blue Jays, where he was named President and Chief Operating Officer in 1989 and President and Chief Executive Officer in 1991. He was the Blue Jays' first employee when the club formed in 1976.



Timothy J. Brosnan
Executive VP, Business

Brosnan oversees all aspects for Major League Baseball's domestic and international business interests, including broadcasting, marketing, licensing and corporate sponsorship.

He joined Baseball in 1991, was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of MLB International in May 1994, and to Senior Vice President, Domestic and International Properties for Major League Baseball in December 1998. He was promoted to his current position in March 2001.

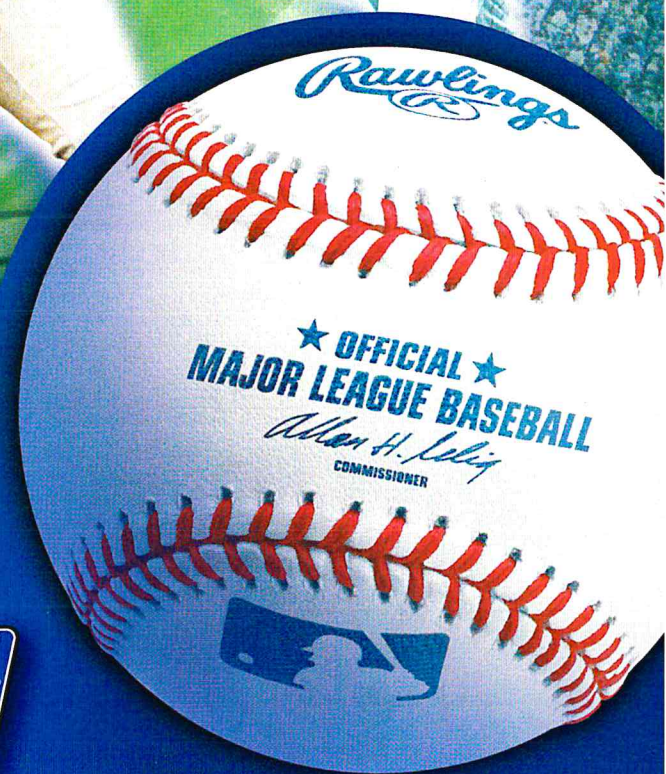


Rob Manfred
Executive VP, Labor and Human Resources

Manfred directs Major League Baseball's strategy on all issues related to collective bargaining with the players and also oversees the human resources department at Major League Baseball.

Manfred was a partner in the Labor and Employment Law Section of the firm Morgan, Lewis and Bockius before joining Major League Baseball in October 1998.

Make a Play for PEPSI



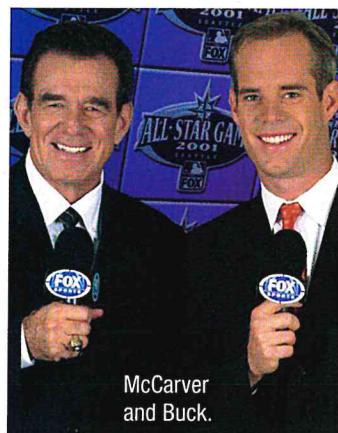
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On the Air | TELEVISION

Presenting their third All-Star Game, and the first of a new six-year agreement that crowned FOX as the exclusive network broadcaster of Major League Baseball's jewel events, will be the Emmy Award winning team of Joe Buck and Tim McCarver. Catch all of the All-Star Game action on Tuesday, July 10 at 5 p.m.



McCarver and Buck.



Campbell.



Steiner.



RADIO

Charley Steiner and Dave Campbell will describe the All-Star Game and Home Run Derby action, with Joe D'Ambrosio serving as on-site host. Former "Nasty Boy" Rob Dibble will serve as on-field reporter to give fans up-close interviews from the Derby.

INTERNATIONAL



Sutcliffe.



Thorne.

This year marks a historical technical achievement as the 2001 All-Star Game will be broadcast in high definition along with a standard feed to a world audience of more than 205 countries. MLB International will provide a live TV feed to baseball fans in 13 languages around the globe. Calling



the action in English for the world feed will be Gary Thorne and former Major Leaguer Rick Sutcliffe. Broadcasters from Japan, Korea, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Germany will also be on-site to call the action live. A Spanish language radio feed will be broadcast in Mexico.

Singing to the Stars

STARTING OFF THIS YEAR'S ALL-STAR Game at Safeco Field with the U.S. national anthem will be pop star Mya. The Maryland native has continued her musical success with the chart-topping collaboration "Lady Marmalade" on the soundtrack for the movie *Moulin Rouge*. She also has just completed her second album, "Fear of Flying," which follows up her 1998 platinum-selling self-titled debut.

Mya will appear after Diana Krall, who will sing the Canadian anthem. The jazz sensation is currently working on her sixth album, to be released in September, which is a follow up to her hit CD "When I Look in Your Eyes." The British Columbia native has played at venues such as the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall.



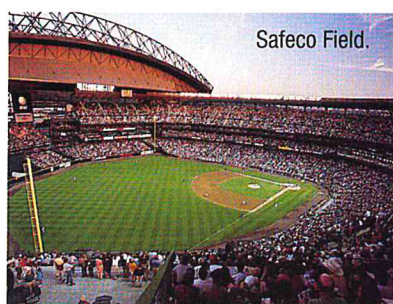
Rising stars Mya (top) and Diana Krall, who will perform the national anthems.

GLOBAL GALA

BASEBALL HAS BROADENED to a truly international scope, with 25 percent of Major League players born outside the U.S. In a tribute to this global influence, the pregame ceremonies at the All-Star Game will take on an international flair, with music and pageantry from around the world. What better place than Seattle for such a global event? The

ceremony will also honor the living Hall of Famers born outside the U.S. who paved the way for today's great international stars, including: Luis Aparicio (Venezuela); Orlando Cepeda (Puerto Rico); Ferguson Jenkins (Canada); Juan Marichal (Dominican Republic); Rod Carew (Panama); and Tony Perez (Cuba).

Also, in a special tribute to the legacy of Roberto Clemente, his 7-year-old grandson, Robby, will complete the "Honorary Run Around the Bases," a new Mariners tradition since moving into Safeco Field.



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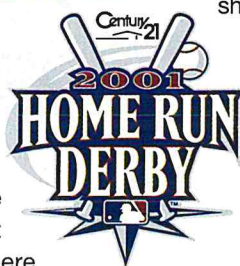


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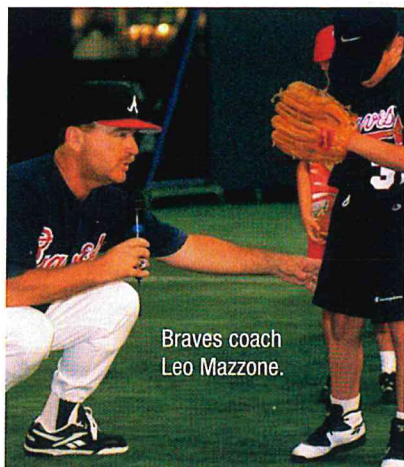
All-Star Week is the time and the place to see the All-Stars of tomorrow, the best power hitters in Major League Baseball, and your favorite celebrities trying to emulate their favorite players. Even though the main attraction at Safeco Field is the 72nd Midsummer Classic, there will be several events leading up to the game that will keep fans coming to the ballpark.

On the day before the All-Star Game, after the American League and National League All-Stars take batting practice, the real fireworks begin with the Century 21 Home Run Derby.

Started in 1985, the Home Run Derby has been one of the highlights of All-Star Week, featuring the game's most powerful sluggers in a three-round competition.



There was no power shortage at last year's Home Run Derby, with the likes of Sammy Sosa (right) and Carlos Delgado.



Braves coach
Leo Mazzone.

FOR THE FANS | Even if they never make it inside Safeco Field, fans can still be a big part of the All-Star festivities. MLB has joined with John Hancock in extending the All-Star Game experience to fans with FanFest. Former Mariners All-Stars Alvin Davis and Harold Reynolds will be the official spokesmen for the event, which takes place at the Stadium Exhibition Center, July 6-11. There are 40-plus events incorporated within FanFest, including:



THE DIAMOND: Interactive clinics with players, managers and umpires.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEGENDS: Get free autographs from your heroes.

MAKING OF THE GAME: See how bats, balls and other tools of the game are made right before your eyes!

THE NEGRO LEAGUES: A tribute to some of the game's finest players.

SPRING TRAINING: Take a swing against a video image of Greg Maddux or throw your best pitch to Edgar Martinez in state-of-the-art video batting and pitching cages.

WITH THESE ATTRACTIONS AND MANY MORE, FANS CAN EXPERIENCE BASEBALL IN WAYS THEY'VE ONLY DREAMED ABOUT.

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Balloting Goes Global

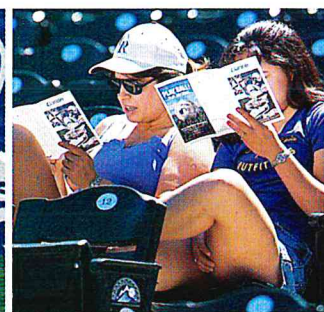
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL scoured the globe to select this year's All-Star Game participants when it teamed up with RadioShack, Claritin and Pepsi to distribute All-Star ballots around the world.

In 2000, fans cast 11 million votes for the game's best players. Those numbers were exceeded in 2001, thanks to the new approaches for involving more fans in the voting process.

Fans were able to vote at all 30 Major League stadiums, Kroger Grocery Stores, and

online at MLB.com. The unique twist to the voting, which has never been done before in any other professional sports league, was that baseball's international fans in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Japan had the opportunity to choose who they wanted to see on the All-Star squad. Twelve million ballots were sent outside the U.S. and Canada.

The 2001 All-Star balloting shows how truly international baseball has become.



Fans from around the world had the chance to vote their favorite players into the All-Star Game.

Brewing a Classic



The Milwaukee Brewers will be making up for lost time when they host the 73rd All-Star Game in 2002.

Originally scheduled to be held in Milwaukee in 1999, officials wanted to play the game in Miller Park, the Brewers' new home that opened this season and has become the latest home run haven in the Majors.

The 2002 contest will be the third Midsummer Classic held in Milwaukee, which hosted the 1955 and 1975 All-Star Games at Milwaukee County Stadium — both contests were won by the National League.

The 1955 game was a 12-inning marathon, highlighted by Stan Musial's walk-off home run that gave the NL a 6-5 win. In 1975, Boston's Carl Yastrzemski's three-run blast tied the game, but two errors cost the American League three runs and the victory.

WELL-TRAVELED

Baseball has certainly become an international game and one particular baseball, the ball that will be used for the ceremonial first pitch prior to the 2001 All-Star Game, got an up-close view of the game's popularity around the globe.

Starting on March 10, the baseball was used as the ceremonial first pitch at 15 baseball events worldwide. The tour included all "Month of the Americas" Spring Training games in Venezuela and Mexico, Opening Day in Puerto Rico and baseball events in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, Germany, Holland, the Czech Republic and Canada.

At each stop, the ball was autographed by a representative of that region, and it even traveled with its own "passport." All told, the baseball will have traveled 50,369 miles when it arrives at its final destination.

The All-Star Baseball World Tour illustrates the worldwide popularity of baseball, both at the professional and grass-roots levels.



This global baseball will be used for the All-Star Game's ceremonial first pitch.

The American
Dominican
Nicaraguan
Panamanian
Caribbean
Cuban
Puerto Rican
Canadian
Mexican
Venezuelan
Colombian
English
Japanese
Korean
Australian Dream.



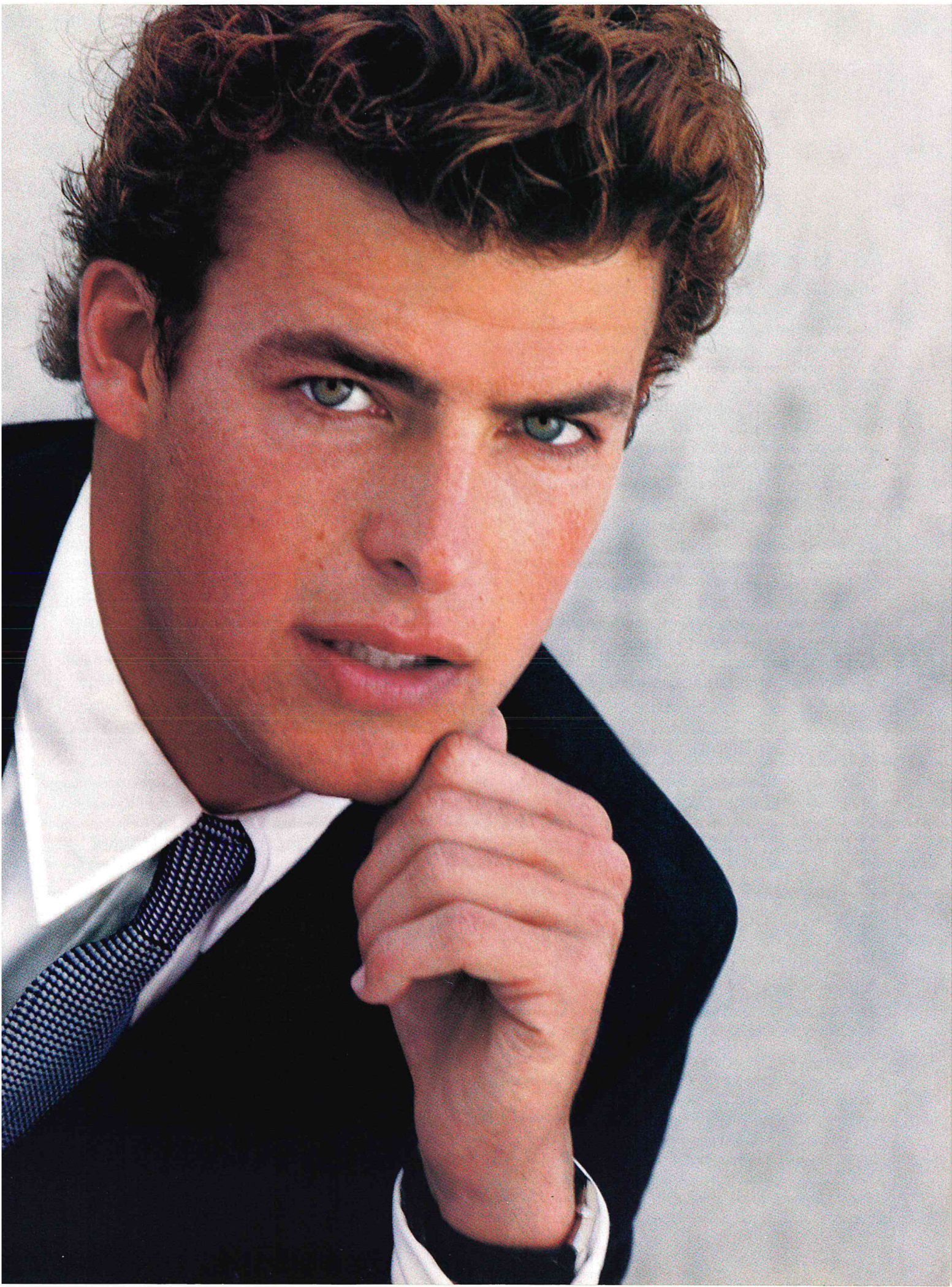
Baseball. A game unlike any other.

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A dark blue suit jacket is shown from the chest up, set against a background of a cloudy sky. The jacket is a solid, deep blue color with a subtle texture. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, creating a moody and atmospheric setting. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the jacket.

CHAPS

RALPH LAUREN



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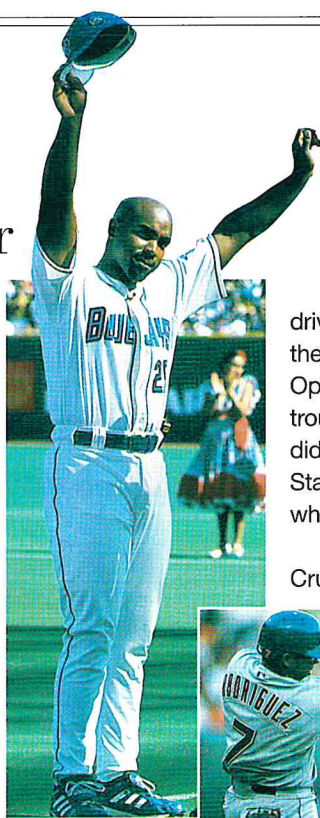
TOP OF THE order

An International Affair

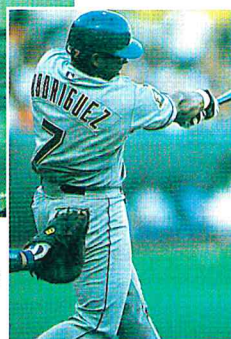
It may have barely been April, but feverish baseball fans in San Juan, Puerto Rico provided enough emotion to energize a postseason game.

Major League Baseball, as part of the second annual "Month of the Americas" campaign, held Spring Training games in Latin America. The Houston Astros and Cleveland Indians traveled to Venezuela while the Arizona Diamondbacks and Oakland Athletics, then the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Pittsburgh Pirates, played in Mexico in March. At the culmination of the campaign, the Texas Rangers and Toronto Blue Jays played an exhibition game on March 31, then squared off in a game that counted on April 1.

"Major League Baseball's globalization continues with more and more of our players and fans coming from outside the U.S.," says Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. "Events such as these bring the excitement of Major League Baseball competition to Latin America and are an integral part of our international marketing."



Native Puerto Ricans Carlos Delgado (top) and Ivan Rodriguez.



In Puerto Rico — where it seems you can't drive 90 seconds without seeing a ball field — there couldn't have been a better setting for Opening Day 2001. Although the Blue Jays trounced the Rangers, 8-1, the one-sided affair didn't dull the party atmosphere at Hiram Bithorn Stadium, which was full of fans eager to cheer while attending their first Major League game.

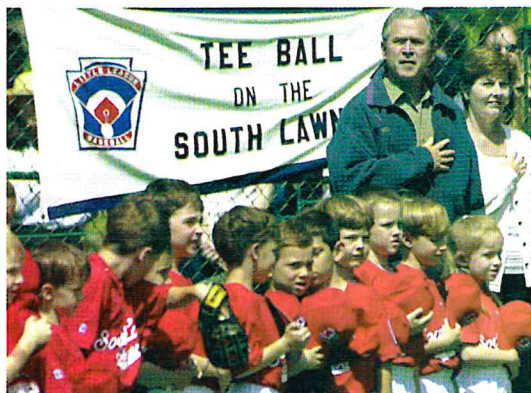
Blue Jays sluggers Carlos Delgado and Jose Cruz Jr., along with Ivan Rodriguez and Ricky

Ledee of the Rangers, were born in Puerto Rico. Needless to say, the native sons received by far the most raucous applause from the hometown crowd during pregame introductions.

"It was great to come home," says Delgado. "I'm glad that I was a part of it."

It was an event that fans and players alike won't soon forget.

THE KIDS' NATIONAL GAME



Tee Ballers on the White House lawn (left); '00 Little League World Series champ Venezuela.



"WELCOME TO BASEBALL IN THE WHITE HOUSE," PRESIDENT Bush announced to over 300 fans sitting on makeshift bleachers during the first weekend in May.

Ever since then—Governor Bush sold his stake in the Texas Rangers, he has needed to find a way to get back into the game. Now, as President, he did what he felt was appropriate: he turned his backyard into a Tee Ball field. This summer the South Lawn was transformed into a baseball diamond as local

Tee Ballers spent their weekend playing under the watchful eye of our nation's leader, who placed the ceremonial first ball on a tee at home plate.

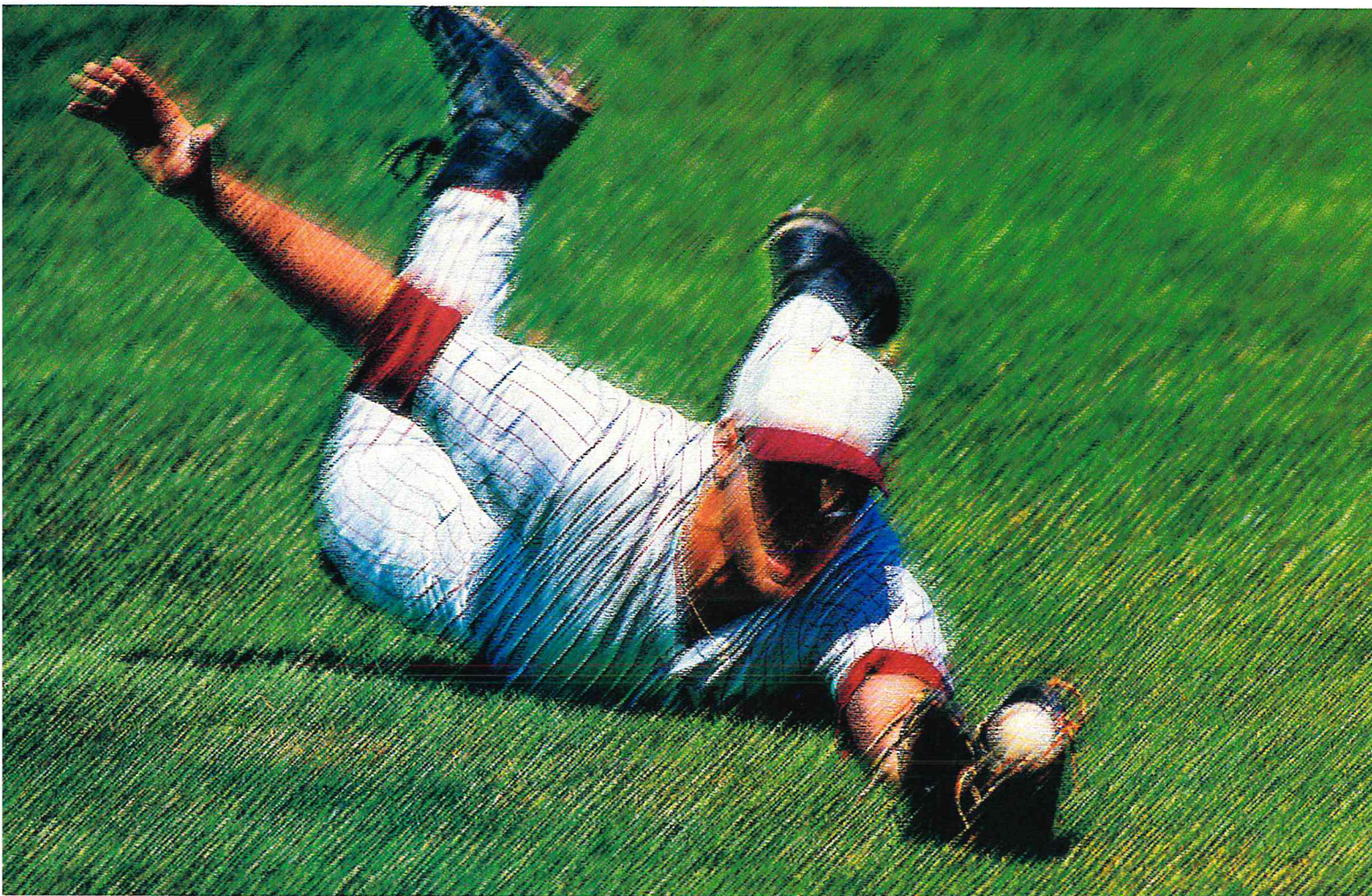
The first-ever game featured the Satchel Paige Little League's Memphis Red Sox and the Capitol City Little League's Rockies.

President Bush, a former Little Leaguer himself, invited the San Diego Chicken to entertain fans, and Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra was on hand to give the youngsters some pointers.

Renowned sportscaster Bob Costas announced the play-by-play from a broadcast booth behind the backstop.

Little League Baseball, which is currently played in 104 countries, recently constructed a second stadium and several other buildings at Little League Baseball International Headquarters in South Williamsport, Pa. The second stadium will allow 16 teams to travel the road to Williamsport in August, instead of just eight as in past years. Eight U.S. teams and eight international teams will compete in the Little League World Series August 17-26, culminating with the championship game Sunday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. E.T. on ABC.

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TOP OF THE ORDER

Racing to Stardom

Just as players prepare for the All-Star Game, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is gearing up for his own all-star performance. Major League Baseball announced in April that it has teamed up with Budweiser and Dale Earnhardt Inc. to promote the 72nd annual All-Star Game. Earnhardt Jr. drove a newly-designed racecar on July 7 in the Pepsi 400 at Daytona International Speedway. The car, which sported the 2001 All-Star Game logo across the hood, was also painted with red baseball stitching around the body and over the roof.

After the race, Action Performance Companies, Inc. offered collectible die-cast replicas of the car, apparel and merchandise adorned with the 2001 All-Star Game theme.



2001 All-Star car.

BIG MAC SERVES HIMSELF

TODAY'S BALLPLAYERS ARE MORE visible than ever. They appear on TV, cereal boxes and in video games. But when the talk turns to contracts, most players leave everything to their agents. Except for Mark McGwire.

The Cardinals' slugger does not have an agent and decided to cut out the middle man, negotiating his own deal with St. Louis management. McGwire met with Cardinals Chairman Bill Dewitt Jr. and General Manager Walt Jocketty for about 30 minutes and hammered out a two-year deal worth \$30 million.

McGwire, who has hit nearly 200 homers since joining the Cardinals late in 1997, said he wanted to stay in St. Louis and had no need to hold out for a bigger contract. He said that the best way to get it done was to close the deal himself.



A SITE TO SEE



MLB.COM, THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF MAJOR LEAGUE Baseball, offers a wide variety of features to make the All-Star Game a true classic. MLB.com offers fans up-to-date statistics, game summaries, extensive historical information and video highlights, including all of the following features:

GAMEDAY AUDIO For \$9.95 per season, you can listen to thousands of live and archived streaming audio from both home and away feeds, plus broadcasts in Spanish for many teams (and French for the Expos).

MLB SHOP The new MLB Shop offers one of the widest selections of authentic team merchandise on the web. It provides access to your favorite team's jerseys, caps and memorabilia.

MLB AUCTION Fans now have a fun and exciting way

to own a piece of baseball history. This section of the site features one-of-a-kind memorabilia from all 30 Major League teams.

ONLINE TICKETING Check out stadium seating and pricing information, team schedules and special events, as well as directions and parking information.

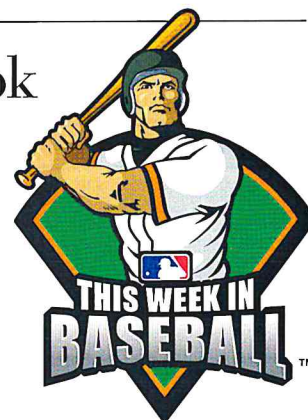
MLB RADIO Highlighted with in-depth interviews, discussion, and listener e-mail questions, MLB Radio is the ultimate pregame show for diehard fans.

An Inside Look

Did you miss anything in the past seven days and need to catch up? Then tune into one of MLB Productions' weekly shows to get all your baseball action.

More than 100 years of baseball footage and state-of-the-art digital equipment bring to life the national pastime on MLB Productions programs, *This Week In Baseball* and *Baseball MAX*. When fans tune in to *TWIB*, shown on FOX before the national Saturday Game of the Week, they are taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of Major League Baseball. Hosts include a different All-Star player each week and dozens of highlights.

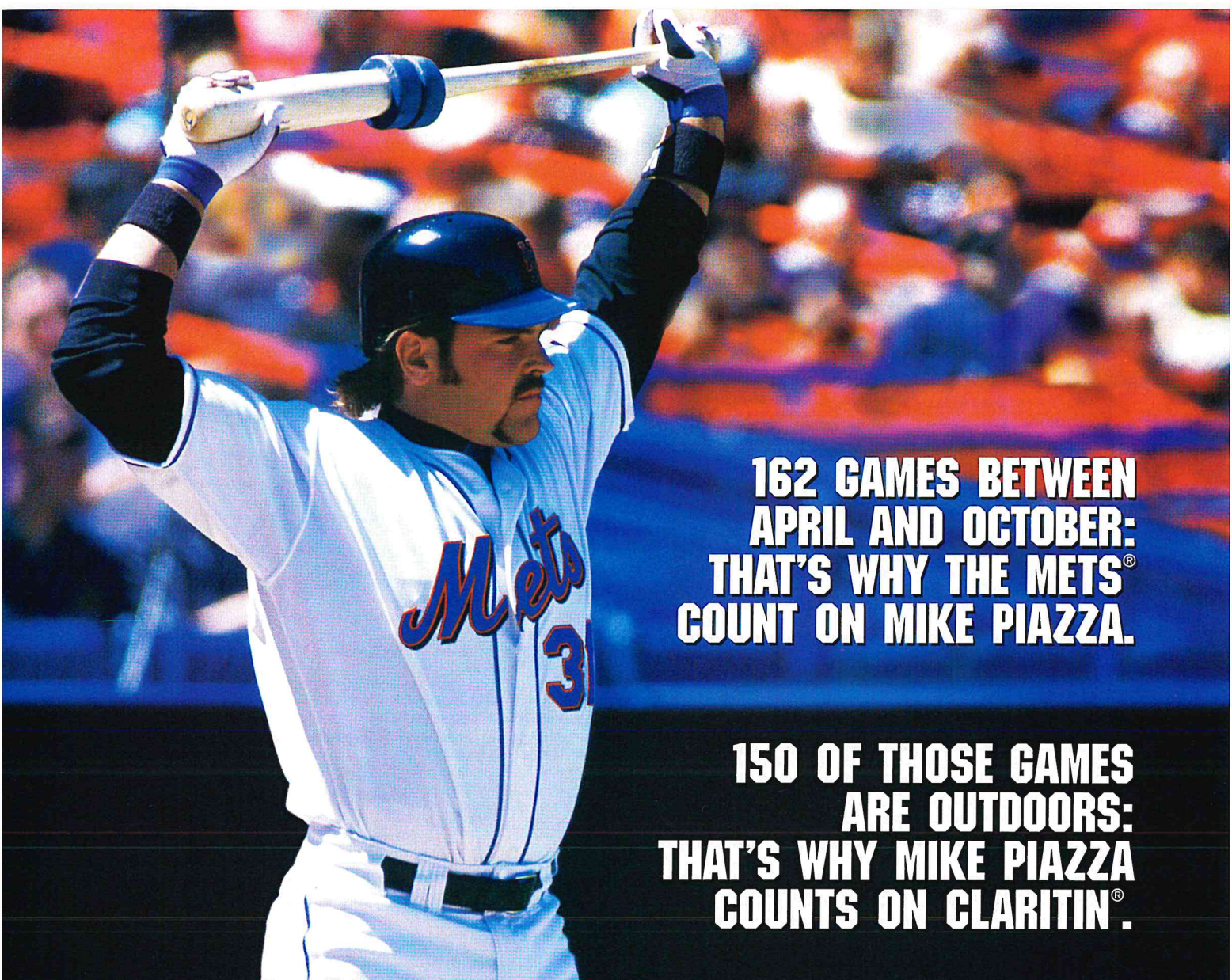
Baseball MAX provides international and domestic audiences with recaps of the week's games.



But MLB Productions is more than just a highlight production. From network specials to international TV presentations, MLB Productions delivers the best that baseball has to offer:

- MLB home videos and DVDs
- MLB in-stadium video entertainment
- Team season and history programs

In the near future, look for the videos *Hitters on Hitting* and *No-Hitters and Perfect Games*.



**162 GAMES BETWEEN
APRIL AND OCTOBER:
THAT'S WHY THE METS®
COUNT ON MIKE PIAZZA.**

**150 OF THOSE GAMES
ARE OUTDOORS:
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COUNTS ON CLARITIN®.**

CLARITIN® comes through in the clutch for Mike,
and it could work on your seasonal allergy symptoms, too.

Your results may vary, and you should talk to your doctor.

At the recommended dose, one CLARITIN Tablet
daily gives you 24 hours of nondrowsy seasonal allergy
relief. *The most common side effects*, including headache, drowsiness, fatigue, and dry mouth,
occurred about as often as with a sugar pill. For more information, call 1-800-CLARITIN
or visit www.claritin.com See adjacent page for additional important information.

Once-a-day

Claritin®
10 mg (loratadine)
TABLETS

Available by prescription only.

Schering / KEN

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CLARITIN® brand of loratadine TABLETS, SYRUP, and RAPIDLY-DISINTEGRATING TABLETS

Brief Summary (For Full Prescribing Information, see package insert.)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE CLARITIN is indicated for the relief of nasal and non-nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis and for the treatment of chronic idiopathic urticaria in patients 2 years of age or older.

CONTRAINDICATIONS CLARITIN is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this medication or to any of its ingredients.

PRECAUTIONS General: Patients with liver impairment or renal insufficiency (GFR < 30 mL/min) should be given a lower initial dose (10 mg every other day). (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Special Populations**.)

Drug Interactions: Loratadine (10 mg once daily) has been coadministered with therapeutic doses of erythromycin, cimetidine, and ketoconazole in controlled clinical pharmacology studies in adult volunteers. Although increased plasma concentrations (AUC 0-24 hrs) of loratadine and/or descarboethoxyloratadine were observed following coadministration of loratadine with each of these drugs in normal volunteers (n = 24 in each study), there were no clinically relevant changes in the safety profile of loratadine, as assessed by electrocardiographic parameters, clinical laboratory tests, vital signs, and adverse events. There were no significant effects on QTc intervals, and no reports of sedation or syncope. No effects on plasma concentrations of cimetidine or ketoconazole were observed. Plasma concentrations (AUC 0-24 hrs) of erythromycin decreased 15% with coadministration of loratadine relative to that observed with erythromycin alone. The clinical relevance of this difference is unknown.

Effects on plasma concentrations (AUC 0-24 hrs) of loratadine and descarboethoxyloratadine after 10 days of coadministration (loratadine 10 mg) in normal volunteers were as follows: with erythromycin (500 mg Q8h): loratadine +40%, descarboethoxyloratadine +46%; with cimetidine (300 mg QID): loratadine +103%, descarboethoxyloratadine +6%; with ketoconazole (200 mg Q12h): loratadine +307%, descarboethoxyloratadine +73%.

There does not appear to be an increase in adverse events in subjects who received oral contraceptives and loratadine.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: In an 18-month carcinogenicity study in mice and a 2-year study in rats, loratadine was administered in the diet at doses up to 40 mg/kg (mice) and 25 mg/kg (rats). In the carcinogenicity studies, pharmacokinetic assessments were carried out to determine animal exposure to the drug. AUC data demonstrated that the exposure of mice given 40 mg/kg of loratadine was 3.6 (loratadine) and 18 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in adults and 5 (loratadine) and 20 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in children given the maximum recommended daily oral dose. Exposure of rats given 25 mg/kg of loratadine was 28 (loratadine) and 67 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in adults and 40 (loratadine) and 80 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in children given the maximum recommended daily oral dose. Male mice given 40 mg/kg had a significantly higher incidence of hepatocellular tumors (combined adenomas and carcinomas) than concurrent controls. In rats, a significantly higher incidence of hepatocellular tumors (combined adenomas and carcinomas) was observed in males given 10 mg/kg, and males and females given 25 mg/kg. Exposure of rats given 10 mg/kg of loratadine was 10 (loratadine) and 15 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in adults and 15 (loratadine) and 20 (descarboethoxyloratadine) times the exposure in children given the maximum recommended daily oral dose. The clinical significance of these findings during long-term use of CLARITIN is not known.

In mutagenicity studies, there was no evidence of mutagenic potential in reverse (Ames) or forward point mutation (CHO-HGPRT) assays, or in the assay for DNA damage (rat primary hepatocyte unscheduled DNA assay) or in two assays for chromosomal aberrations (human peripheral blood lymphocyte clastogenesis assay and the mouse bone marrow erythrocyte micronucleus assay). In the mouse lymphoma assay, a positive finding occurred in the nonactivated but not the activated phase of the study.

Decreased fertility in male rats, shown by lower female conception rates, occurred at an oral dose of 64 mg/kg (approximately 50 times the maximum recommended human daily oral dose on a mg/m² basis) and was reversible with cessation of dosing. Loratadine had no effect on male or female fertility or reproduction in the rat at an oral dose of approximately 24 mg/kg (approximately 20 times the maximum recommended human daily oral dose on a mg/m² basis).

Pregnancy Category B: There was no evidence of animal teratogenicity in studies performed in rats and rabbits at oral doses up to 96 mg/kg (approximately 75 times and 150 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human daily oral dose on a mg/m² basis). There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, CLARITIN should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers: Loratadine and its metabolite, descarboethoxyloratadine, pass easily into breast milk and achieve concentrations that are equivalent to plasma levels with an AUC_{milk}/AUC_{plasma} ratio of 1.17 and 0.85 for loratadine and descarboethoxyloratadine, respectively. Following a single oral dose of 40 mg, a small amount of loratadine and descarboethoxyloratadine was excreted into the breast milk (approximately 0.03% of 40 mg over 48 hours). A decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Caution should be exercised when CLARITIN is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: The safety of CLARITIN Syrup at a daily dose of 10 mg has been demonstrated in 188 pediatric patients 6 to 12 years of age in placebo-controlled 2-week trials. The safety and tolerability of CLARITIN Syrup at a daily dose of 5 mg has been demonstrated in 60 pediatric patients 2 to 5 years of age in a double-blind, placebo-controlled, 2-week study. The effectiveness of CLARITIN for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria in children aged 2 to 12 years is based on an extrapolation of the demonstrated efficacy of CLARITIN in adults in these conditions and the likelihood that the disease course, pathophysiology, and the drug's effect are substantially similar to that of the adults. The recommended dose for the pediatric population is based on cross-study comparison of the pharmacokinetics of CLARITIN in adults and pediatric subjects and on the safety profile of loratadine in both adults and pediatric patients at doses equal to or higher than the recommended doses. The safety and effectiveness of CLARITIN in children under 2 years of age have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS **CLARITIN Tablets:** Approximately 90,000 patients, aged 12 and older, received CLARITIN Tablets 10 mg once daily in controlled and uncontrolled studies. Placebo-controlled clinical trials at the recommended dose of 10 mg once a day varied from 2 weeks' to 6 months' duration. The rate of premature withdrawal from these trials was approximately 2% in both the treated and placebo groups.

The reported adverse events with an incidence of more than 2% in placebo-controlled allergic rhinitis clinical trials in patients 12 years of age and older, with loratadine 10 mg QD (n=1926), placebo (n=2545), clemastine 1 mg BID (n=536), and terfenadine 60 mg BID (n=684), respectively, were:

headache (12%, 11%, 8%, and 8%); somnolence (8%, 6%, 22%, and 9%); fatigue (4%, 3%, 10%, and 2%); and dry mouth (3%, 2%, 4%, and 3%).

Adverse events reported in placebo-controlled chronic idiopathic urticaria trials were similar to those reported in allergic rhinitis studies.

Adverse event rates did not appear to differ significantly based on age, sex, or race, although the number of nonwhite subjects was relatively small.

CLARITIN REDITABS (loratadine rapidly-disintegrating tablets): Approximately 500 patients received CLARITIN REDITABS (loratadine rapidly-disintegrating tablets) in controlled clinical trials of 2 weeks' duration. In these studies, adverse events were similar in type and frequency to those seen with CLARITIN Tablets and placebo.

Administration of CLARITIN REDITABS (loratadine rapidly-disintegrating tablets) did not result in an increased reporting frequency of mouth or tongue irritation.

CLARITIN Syrup: Approximately 300 pediatric patients 6 to 12 years of age received 10 mg loratadine once daily in controlled clinical trials for a period of 8 to 15 days. Among these, 188 children were treated with 10 mg loratadine syrup once daily in placebo-controlled trials. Adverse events in these pediatric patients were observed to occur with type and frequency similar to those seen in the adult population. The rate of premature discontinuance due to adverse events among pediatric patients receiving loratadine 10 mg daily was less than 1%.

The adverse events occurring with a frequency of ≥2% in loratadine syrup-treated patients (6 to 12 years old) in placebo-controlled trials, and more frequently than in the placebo group, with loratadine 10 mg QD (n=188), placebo (n=262), and chlorpheniramine 2-4 mg BID/TID (n=170) were, respectively: nervousness (4%, 2%, and 2%); wheezing (4%, 2%, and 5%); fatigue (3%, 2%, and 5%); hyperkinesia (3%, 1%, and 1%); abdominal pain (2%, 0%, and 0%); conjunctivitis (2%, <1%, and 1%); dysphonia (2%, <1%, and 0%); malaise (2%, 0%, and 1%); and upper respiratory tract infection (2%, <1%, and 0%).

In addition to those adverse events reported above (≥2%), the following adverse events have been reported in at least one patient in CLARITIN clinical trials in adult and pediatric patients:

Autonomic Nervous System: altered lacrimation, altered salivation, flushing, hypoesthesia, impotence, increased sweating, thirst.

Body as a Whole: angioneurotic edema, asthenia, back pain, blurred vision, chest pain, earache, eye pain, fever, leg cramps, malaise, rigors, tinnitus, weight gain.

Cardiovascular System: hypertension, hypotension, palpitations, supraventricular tachyarrhythmias, syncope, tachycardia.

Central and Peripheral Nervous System: blepharospasm, dizziness, dysphonia, hypertonia, migraine, paresthesia, tremor, vertigo.

Gastrointestinal System: altered taste, anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, dyspepsia, flatulence, gastritis, hiccup, increased appetite, loose stools, nausea, vomiting.

Musculoskeletal System: arthralgia, myalgia.

Psychiatric: agitation, amnesia, anxiety, confusion, decreased libido, depression, impaired concentration, insomnia, irritability, paranoia.

Reproductive System: breast pain, dysmenorrhea, menorrhagia, vaginitis.

Respiratory System: bronchitis, bronchospasm, coughing, dyspnea, hemoptysis, laryngitis, nasal dryness, sinusitis, sneezing.

Skin and Appendages: dermatitis, dry hair, dry skin, photosensitivity reaction, pruritus, purpura, urticaria.

Urinary System: altered micturition, urinary discoloration, urinary incontinence, urinary retention.

In addition, the following spontaneous adverse events have been reported rarely during the marketing of loratadine: abnormal hepatic function, including jaundice, hepatitis, and hepatic necrosis; alopecia; anaphylaxis; breast enlargement; erythema multiforme; peripheral edema; thrombocytopenia; and seizures.

OVERDOSAGE In adults, somnolence, tachycardia, and headache have been reported with overdoses greater than 10 mg with the Tablet formulation (40 mg to 180 mg). Extrapyramidal signs and palpitations have been reported in children with overdoses of greater than 10 mg of CLARITIN Syrup. In the event of overdosage, general symptomatic and supportive measures should be instituted promptly and maintained for as long as necessary.

Treatment of overdosage would reasonably consist of emesis (ipecac syrup), except in patients with impaired consciousness, followed by the administration of activated charcoal to absorb any remaining drug. If vomiting is unsuccessful, or contraindicated, gastric lavage should be performed with normal saline. Saline cathartics may also be of value for rapid dilution of bowel contents. Loratadine is not eliminated by hemodialysis. It is not known if loratadine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

No deaths occurred at oral doses up to 5000 mg/kg in mice (approximately 1200 and 1400 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily oral dose in adults and children on a mg/m² basis). No deaths occurred at oral doses up to 5000 mg/kg in matured rats (approximately 2400 and 2900 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily oral dose in adults and children on a mg/m² basis). However, lethality occurred in juvenile rats at an oral dose of 125 mg/kg (approximately 100 and 70 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily oral dose in adults and children on a mg/m² basis). No deaths occurred at oral doses up to 1280 mg/kg in monkeys (approximately 2100 and 1500 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily oral dose in adults and children on a mg/m² basis).

Schering

Schering Corporation Kenilworth, NJ 07033 USA Rev. 9/00 19628477T-JBS
CLARITIN REDITABS (loratadine rapidly-disintegrating tablets) are manufactured for Schering Corporation by Schering DDS, England.
U.S. Patent Nos. 4,282,233 and 4,371,516.
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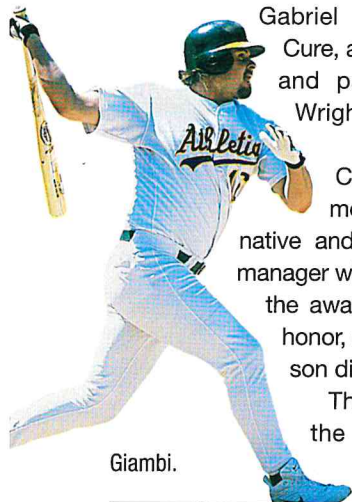
Fighting a Bigger Battle

Jason Giambi's 2000 statistics were staggering: 43 home runs, 137 RBI and a .333 average — numbers that led to the 2000 AL Most Valuable Player award. Giambi received another honor, the 2000 Hutch award, for his play on the field and civic awareness off it. He became the 36th recipient of the award, joining a list that includes Mickey Mantle, Sandy Koufax and the Mariners' John Olerud.

Giambi is a leader in the Oakland community. He recently donated \$10,000 to the Assistance League of San Gabriel Valley, is a spokesman for Cap Cure, a program that fights prostate cancer, and participates in the annual Mother Wright Turkey Drive.

Sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and named in memory of Fred Hutchinson, a Seattle native and former Major League pitcher and manager who lost his battle with cancer in 1964, the award exemplifies the characteristics of honor, dedication and courage that Hutchinson displayed both on and off the field.

The original award plaque resides at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.



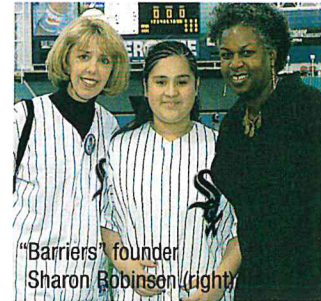
Giambi.

A CHANCE TO SUCCEED

THE ROAD TO THE TOP isn't easy. Even Major Leaguers have overcome obstacles on their way to stardom. But it's their ability to overcome those obstacles that makes their stories a learning experience for others.

In 1997 Sharon Robinson, the daughter of Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, started "Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life," an educational program that teaches children the values and traits necessary to overcome the challenges in their lives. The program also gives kids a chance to win a free day at the ballpark for their entire class.

Robinson recently concluded a tour on which she addressed children and read from her new book, *Jackie's*



"Barriers" founder Sharon Robinson (right)

Nine, a collection of inspirational writings that examines values she associates with her father.

More than one million children have participated in "Breaking Barriers" in all 28 Major League cities.

FOR MORE INFO, WRITE TO:
Sharon Robinson
Educational Programming Dept.
Major League Baseball
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10167

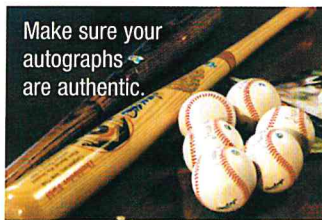
THE REAL DEAL

FOR THOSE FANS THAT have ever worried about authenticity when buying autographed memorabilia, Major League Baseball has a new program that will make sure it's the real thing.

The MLB Authentication Program is designed to provide security by using a hologram that displays a specific serial number for each autographed or game-used item to confirm the item's authenticity. The serial number will then be catalogued on MLB.com for easy reference.

Major League Baseball has also teamed up with Arthur Anderson to witness

Make sure your autographs are authentic.



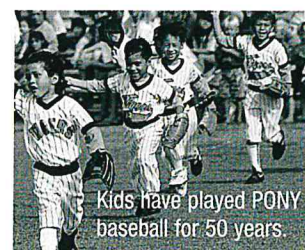
all autograph sessions and the removal of game-used items to ensure that each item is genuine.

The first authenticated items were the balls and bases used in the 2001 season opener in San Juan, Puerto Rico between Texas and Toronto on April 1. The balls and bases from all 30 home openers also became a part of the MLB Authentication Program.

Silver Anniversary

Baseball has been a part of American culture for over a century, and millions of youngsters have had the opportunity to participate in the national pastime. This year, the PONY League celebrates its 50th anniversary of giving kids a place to achieve their dreams.

PONY — which stands for "Protect Our Nation's Youth" — has spread from its origins in southwestern Pennsylvania across the United States and into 15 countries where 400,000 boys and girls benefit from the program.



Kids have played PONY baseball for 50 years.

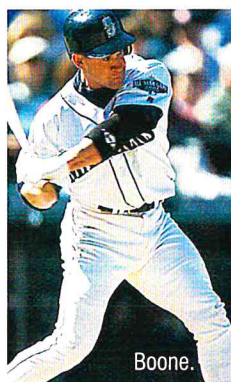
The bases and pitching distances are less than full size, which allows kids to comfortably learn the basics of the game.

The original PONY, which was created for 13 and 14-year-olds, has become a seven-division organization for kids age 5-18. Softball was later added in 1976.

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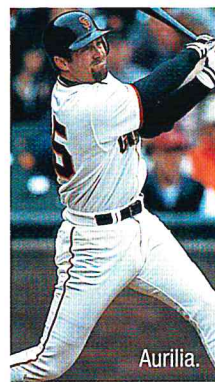
Startling Starts

The Cubs, Phillies and Twins have been in first place. Rich Aurilia has been the hottest-hitting shortstop in baseball. Here's a look at the most shocking events and stories of the season's first half. BY MIKE McCORMICK



BASEBALL'S BEST TEAM

The Mariners started the season 50-14, the second-best 64-game start in history (behind only the 1912 Giants' 53 wins). The best part is, Seattle has improved with each mega-star's departure during the past three years. Aaron Sele and Freddy Garcia can match any team's top two starters, set-up man Jeff Nelson has been nearly unhittable, and closer Kazuhiro Sasaki leads the Majors in saves. Ichiro Suzuki has sparked on defense, not to mention a batting average around .350. Almost as surprising, second baseman Bret Boone is having the best RBI season of his career.



BOMBERS BY THE BAY

Think the AL has all the hard-hitting shortstops? Well, San Francisco's Rich Aurilia has led the NL in batting with a mark near .360 through most of the first half. The man benefitting most from Aurilia's hot start has been Barry Bonds, who is blasting homers at a record clip.

NEW BEAST OF THE EAST?

Philadelphia fans keep wondering when their bubble is going to burst, but in the middle of June, the Phillies still held a slim lead over the Braves. They may have lost their All-Star catcher, Mike Lieberthal, but starter Omar Daal, rookie shortstop Jimmy Rollins and revived closer Jose Mesa have given the Phillies a taste of a position that they haven't known since the Kruk-Dykstra-Daulton blue-collar days — first place.



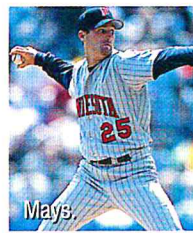
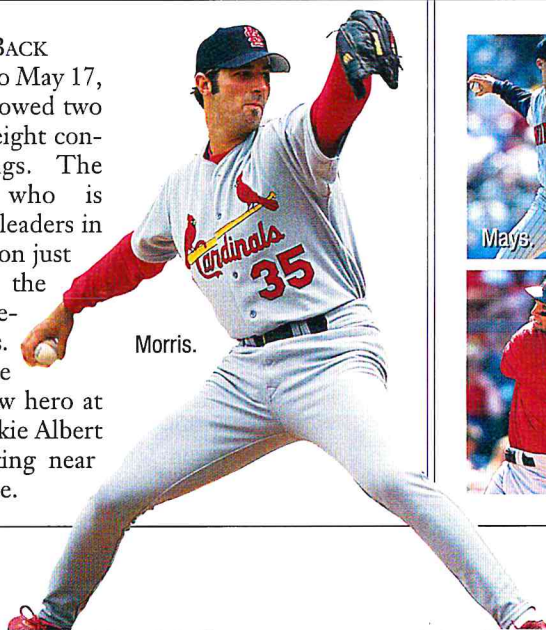
PITCHING ... AT WRIGLEY?

The "Lovable Losers" may need a new nickname. The Cubbies are suddenly a factor in the NL Central and they sat atop the division in mid-June. Sammy Sosa is launching home runs as usual, but a suddenly-formidable pitching staff anchored by Kerry Wood, Kevin Tapani and Jon Lieber has led to the turnaround.



ALL THE WAY BACK

From April 11 to May 17, Matt Morris allowed two runs or less in eight consecutive outings. The right-hander, who is among the NL leaders in victories, had won just three games in the last two years because of injuries. The Cards have also found a new hero at the plate — rookie Albert Pujols was batting near .360 in mid-June.



MINNY-MUM WAGE

The Indians suddenly have a new rival in the AL Central — the bargain-basement Minnesota Twins, who have the lowest payroll in baseball. Players you probably never heard of before this season — Mientkiewicz, Guzman, Mays and Rivas, to name a few — have helped Minnesota stay in or near first place since the season began.

The New "Killer B"

Lance Berkman has not only won the highly-contested third outfield spot for Houston, but he has also batted well above .300 and has shown power that would make teammates Bagwell and Biggio proud.

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What's in Tony Gwynn's Locker? BY PEDRO GOMEZ

1 SHOE POLISH: When I first came up (in 1982), we didn't have the kids in the clubhouse who shined our shoes. I never got into the habit of having them do it.

3 SHELVES: I had those specially built because I had too much stuff and not enough places to put it all.

4 PHOTOS: Those are pictures of me with my wife and our kids. There are also some in there of us with friends.

5 SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEDAL: That was given to me about four years ago by a girl in the Make-A-Wish program. She wanted to meet me and gave me that medal. She has since passed away, but I've kept it there ever since we met.

6 PAIN PILLS: My friend told me that he had similar pains in his knee joints, and never had pain again after he started taking those. I took them every day. Of course, one month later, I had surgery on my knee. But I still take them.

7 ALL-STAR GAME T-SHIRTS: We have a tradition that whoever goes to the All-Star Game has to bring back a T-shirt and hat for everyone on the team, including the coaches, trainers and clubhouse guys.

8 BALLS INSIDE A SOCK: The balls in there are autographed for other players, friends of players, or whomever. They're especially new, and storing them inside the sock keeps them that way.

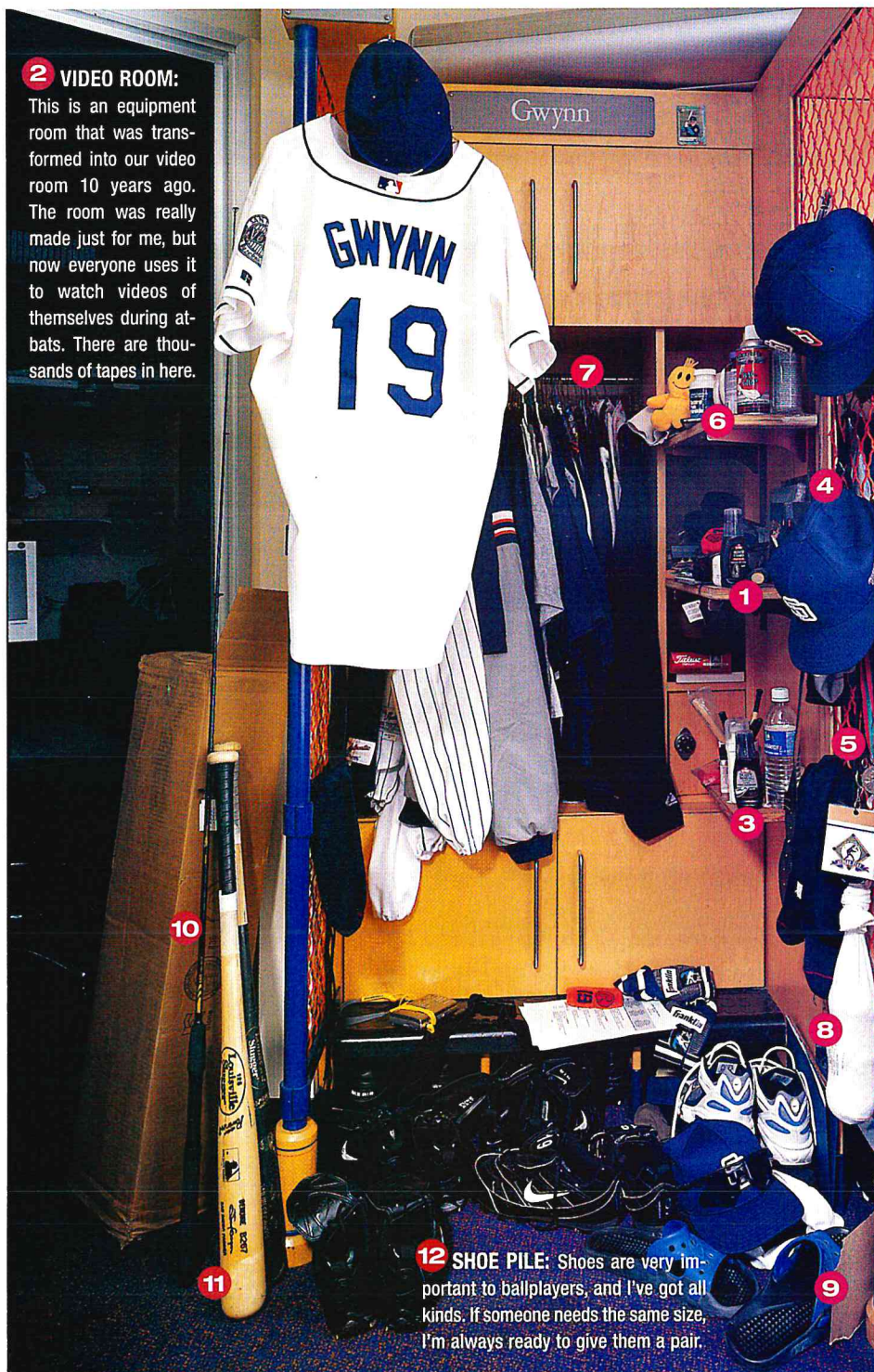
9 SANDPAPER: I got some new shoes that had this coat of gloss on them. I had to sand the stuff off so I could polish the shoes.

10 FISHING ROD: A guy gave that to me for my birthday. He knows I love to fish.

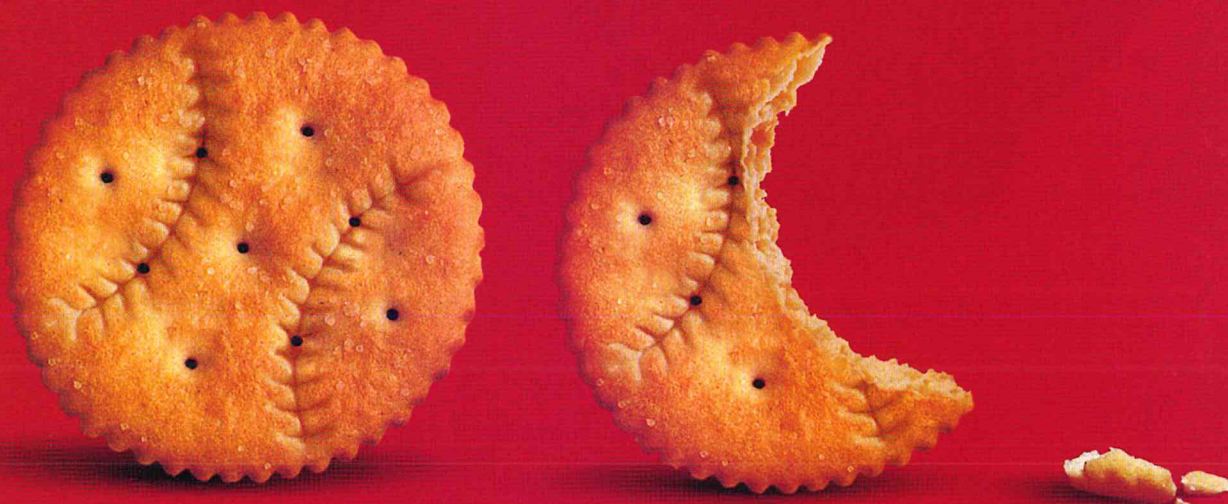
11 CRACKED BATS: Instead of having the club pay for them, I prefer to buy my own bats. That way I can do whatever I want with them when they break. Otherwise they'll wind up in some gift shop being sold for \$500.

2 VIDEO ROOM:

This is an equipment room that was transformed into our video room 10 years ago. The room was really made just for me, but now everyone uses it to watch videos of themselves during at-bats. There are thousands of tapes in here.



12 SHOE PILE: Shoes are very important to ballplayers, and I've got all kinds. If someone needs the same size, I'm always ready to give them a pair.



going, going, gone



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A Man Among Boys

If the past few years are an indication of things to come, Pedro Martinez could eventually be considered one of the best pitchers ever. BY DERON SNYDER

CHOOSING THE BEST PITCHER in baseball, like naming boxing's mythical pound-for-pound champion, is an incredibly hard decision that's even harder to defend. Subjectivity has a way of bending and shading otherwise sound logic.

The task is difficult enough when you're limited to present contenders. But try extending the discussion to all-time greats, and there's no shortage of candidates.

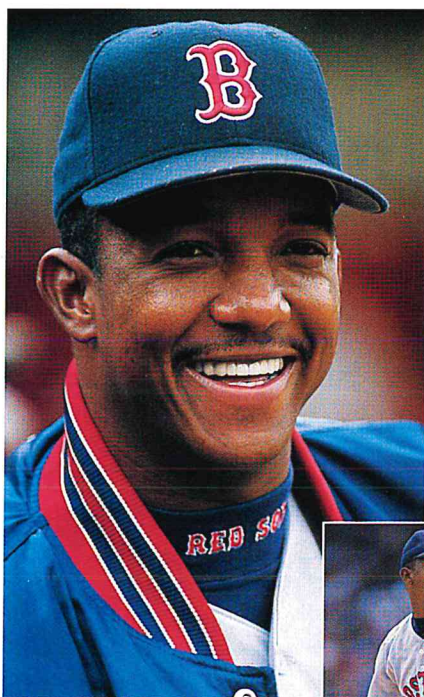
Take Boston's Pedro Martinez, for instance.

Few argue his title as the game's best pitcher over the past four seasons, campaigns that resulted in three Cy Young awards — including back-to-back unanimous selections — and a runner-up finish in 1998. But more impressive is Martinez's statistical rout, similar to Secretariat's runaway romp in the Belmont.

In this era of mind-boggling offensive numbers, you would think Martinez pitches with a dead ball. While hitters take to pitchers like sharks to chum, Martinez is turning in some of the most dominating seasons ever — and all hitters have taken notice.

His ERA of 1.74 last season was more than three full runs better than the American League's cumulative ERA (4.92) — the widest gap in history. Same for the gap between Martinez's ERA and season runner-up Roger Clemens' 3.70. Opponents batted .167 off him — the Majors' lowest average ever — 109 points lower than the AL batting average of .276. Martinez also set the Major League's modern record for lowest on-base percentage against (.214), while compiling an astounding strikeouts-to-walk ratio of 8.87 to 1.

Who would've thought that Martinez could top his 1999 performance?



With a dizzying array of pitches, Pedro Martinez has dominated hitters on a consistent basis.

He blew away the field that season, too, capturing pitching's Triple Crown with league-leading totals in wins, ERA and strikeouts. Going 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA and 313 Ks is supposed to be a career year.

"This run is probably as good as anybody has ever had in the history of the game," Boston pitching coach Joe Kerrigan says. "It's beyond incredible. They're numbers that nobody has put up in this generation of offense. He's the Michael Jordan, the Mario Lemieux, the Tiger Woods of baseball."

That's what a lot of people think. Martinez isn't one of them.

"I'm just a player — an All-Star, of

course, with a couple of Cy Youngs — but that's it," Martinez says. "I don't consider myself any more special than anyone else and I don't want to be anything else. Whatever comes later on, I'll take. But so far, I'm just a player like everybody else."

He's been baseball's closest thing to automatic since winning his first Cy Young with Montreal in 1997. He makes pitching seem so easy, generating more power than his 5'11", 170-pound frame suggests is humanly possible. His pitches change speeds and locations as easily as a sports car zips across a highway. Batters are still looking for a weakness.

"I can't guarantee that type of success," Martinez says. "It's really hard to do. I'm just going to work hard like I have been doing, and when the season's over, see what I've done."

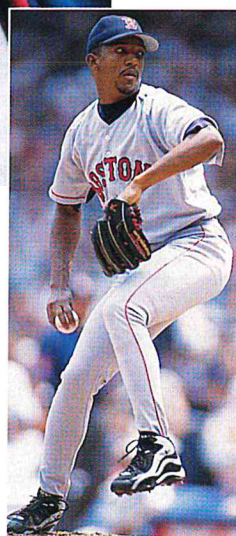
We'll have to wait until his career is over to see where he ranks overall. Martinez is in his ninth season, a sample that for now is too short for consideration among the all-time greats.

"He'll have to hang in there for a while, another five years I'd say," says Hall of Famer Bob Feller. "In another five years, people

can evaluate what his stats are, which will be very important for him as far as the Hall of Fame and his place in Major League history.

"He's the best pitcher around today. He's not a top five pitcher yet, but he may be. He may eventually be No. 1 in history." ♦

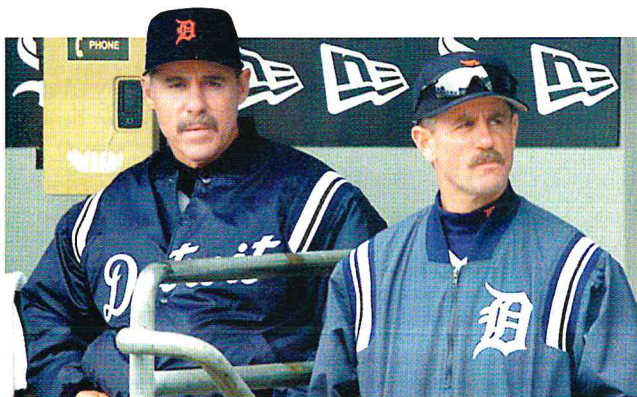
Deron Snyder is a sports columnist for The News-Press in Fort Myers, Fla.



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One & the Same

Ever have a hard time placing the name with a face? These confusing Major Leaguers have all been victims of mistaken identity. BY MIKE MCCORMICK



Phil Garner, Tigers manager **LOOKS LIKE** Doug Mantsolino, Tigers bench coach

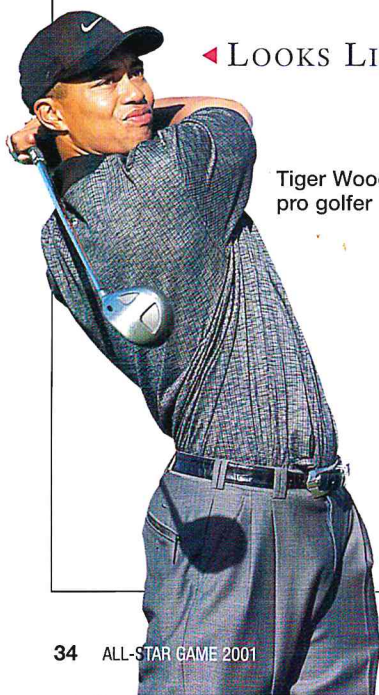
"I've been confused with Phil a million times. One time we were playing the Yankees and someone from a network said they wanted to interview me, so I said, 'Sure.' I followed their guys and all of a sudden, we were in this room set up for TV. I said, 'Hey, wait a minute, I think you might have the wrong guy. Don't you want Phil Garner?' The guy's jaw dropped." —Mantsolino

Roberto Alomar, Indians second baseman

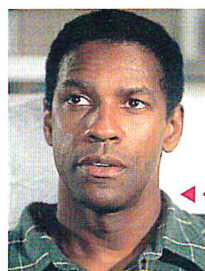


LOOKS LIKE

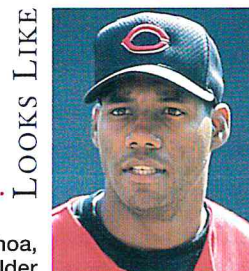
Tiger Woods, pro golfer



"I was at the Australian Open last year. When I was working out, I had my hat down and I guess that I looked like him. Kids were yelling, 'Hey Tiger.' It happened twice while I was there." —Alomar



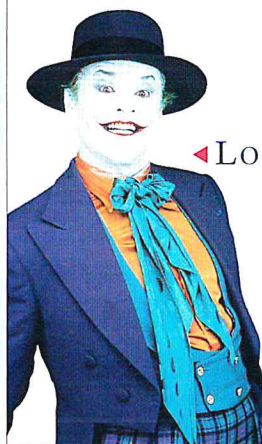
Denzel Washington, actor



LOOKS LIKE

Alex Ochoa, Reds outfielder

"Fans think I'm Denzel all the time. One day I was at Disney World with my brother and wife. We were standing in line and someone kept looking at me weird and nudging his friends. I finally just said, 'No, man, I'm not him.'" —Ochoa



Joe Randa, Royals third baseman

LOOKS LIKE



The Joker from *Batman*

Randa wears "Joker" on his batting gloves, and also has his own radio show called "The Joker's Wild."

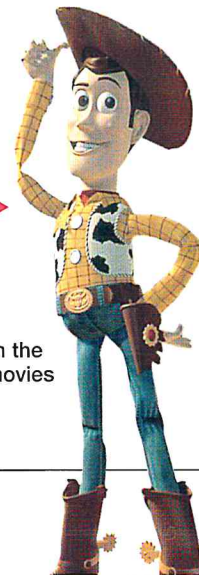


Kirk Rueter, Giants pitcher

LOOKS LIKE

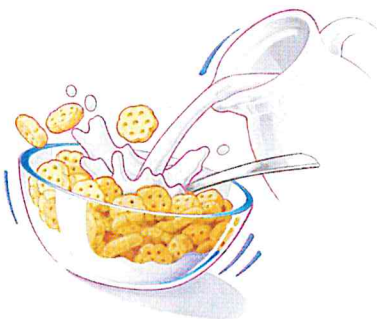
Woody from the *Toy Story* movies

Rueter's teammates call him "Woody."

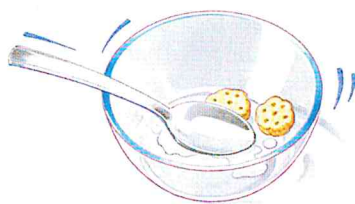




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Turn-of-the-century Slugger

Nap Lajoie posted the highest modern-day single-season batting average 100 years ago. BY ERIC ENDERS

A CENTURY AGO, ONE OF BASEBALL'S greatest players created a scandal by jumping his contract to join a new team, sparking a fierce legal war between the National and American Leagues. Amidst the turmoil, he batted .426, a modern Major League record. His name was Nap Lajoie, and he's one of baseball's most intriguing characters.

Napoleon Lajoie (pronounced laz-way) was born in the industrial town of Woonsocket, R.I. By age 10 he had dropped out of school and was working in a textile mill. He eventually quit the mill to work as a cab driver, guiding a team of horses around Woonsocket. He devoted weekends to his favorite pastime, playing catcher on a semipro baseball team. In 1896, he was discovered by a nearby Minor League team, and a few months later, found himself in the middle of the Philadelphia Phillies' batting order.

Lajoie quickly became one of the best hitters in the National League. His stance appeared lazy and nonchalant, but he was able to whip his bat through the strike zone with extraordinary quickness. He batted over .325 in each of his first 11 seasons, leading his league in hits four times, RBI three times and slugging percentage four times. One of the most versatile players in history, he played four positions regularly during his pro career — catcher, first base, second base and center field — and filled in at the other four when needed. He eventually settled at second base, where one sportswriter described him as "graceful as an antelope." At 6-foot 1-inch tall and 195

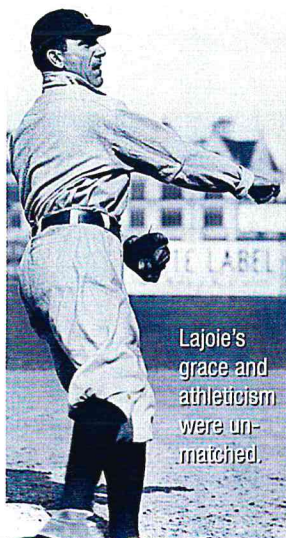
pounds, Lajoie was unusually large for a second baseman, but he was a tremendous athlete — so physically fit that he received offers from carnival promoters to serve as a model of the perfect human physique.

A quiet, introspective man, Lajoie somehow still managed to become involved in many of the baseball controversies of his day. He could let his temper get the best of him, but that sort of aggressiveness appealed to the new American League. In 1901, when the upstart circuit was trying to establish itself as a legitimate Major League by raiding the NL of its best players, Lajoie was one of the first it pursued. He was already making the NL maximum of \$2,400 per year, plus another \$200 under the table. But when Connie Mack offered him a reported \$4,000 salary to jump to the new Philadelphia Athletics, Lajoie accepted. The Phillies were hit especially hard by the AL raids, losing five other stars in addition to Lajoie. Left in shambles, the team filed a lawsuit against its former players, seeking an injunction to prevent them from playing in the newly formed league.

While the two leagues battled it out in court in 1901, Lajoie put together one of the greatest seasons in baseball history. He batted .426, still the modern Major League record. He led the AL in home runs and RBI, and the Majors in runs, hits, doubles, slugging and on-base percentage. But on Opening Day 1902, the



The talented but controversial Lajoie hit an amazing .426 in 1901 and helped shape the game of baseball.



Lajoie's grace and athleticism were unmatched.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court finally handed down its decision: Lajoie had to return to the NL because the reserve clause in his contract bound him to the Phillies for life. But since the court only had jurisdiction over the state of Pennsylvania, AL President Ban Johnson found a way around the decision: He simply took Lajoie away from the Athletics and gave him to the Cleveland Blues. Because Lajoie was a fugitive in Pennsylvania, he didn't accompany the Blues on any of their road trips to Philadelphia. Sheriff's deputies routinely met the team train at the station to search for Lajoie. They never found him, and he would always rejoin the team on its next stop.

In 1903, the two leagues agreed to peacefully coexist, and Lajoie was again allowed to play in Pennsylvania. That same year, Cleveland became the only franchise in Major League history to officially name itself after an active player, adopting the nickname "Naps" in honor of Lajoie. ♦

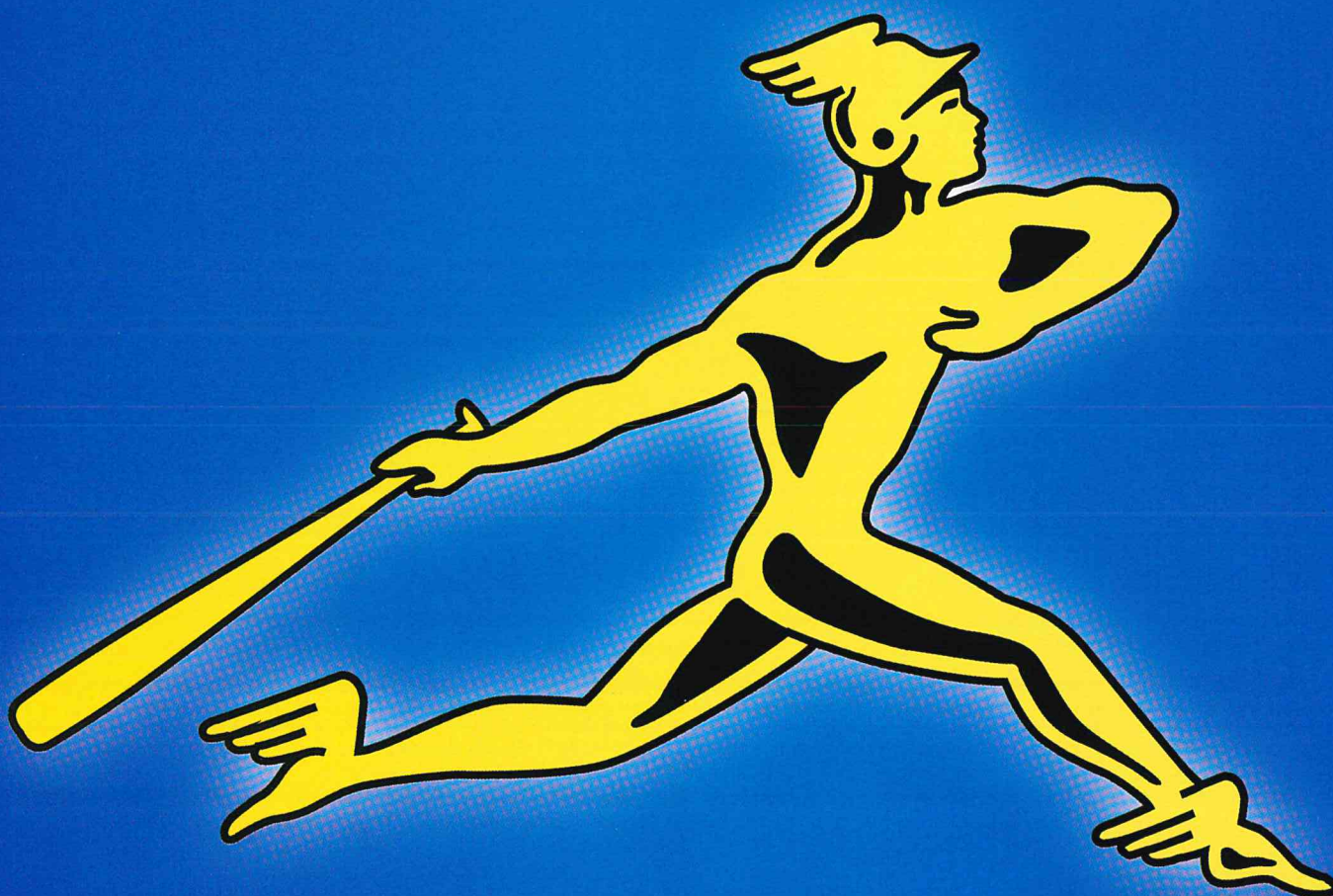


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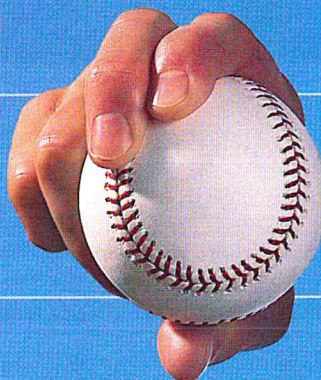
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Heck of a Year

A glance back at 1979, the year in which Seattle last hosted the All-Star Game. BY JASON DELLA ROSA

The timing couldn't be more perfect for Seattle to host this Midsummer Classic. "Ichiro Madness" has spread throughout the Pacific Northwest, and the Mariners are the hottest team in baseball. These are the events that shaped the world, the U.S. and baseball in 1979 — the last time that the Emerald City played All-Star host.

IN THE WORLD

Snow falls in the Sahara Desert ... Pope John Paul II becomes the first pope to visit Ireland and the White House ... Mother Teresa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize ... Margaret Thatcher is named Britain's first female Prime Minister ... Ayatollah Khomeini takes over in Iran ... Iranian militants seize the U.S. Embassy and take hostages ... The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan ... Pol Pot's regime in Cambodia is overthrown ... Wayne Gretzky scores his first NHL goal.



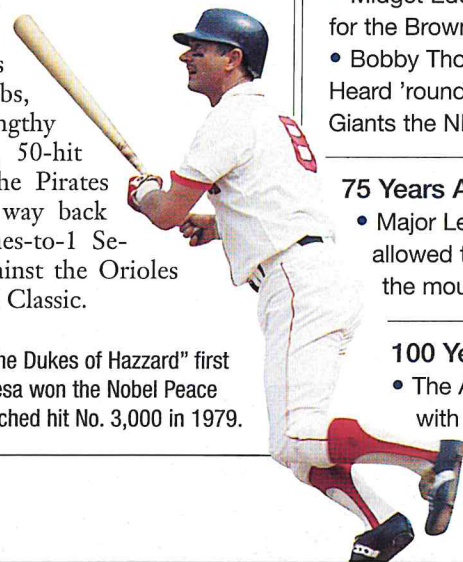
IN THE UNITED STATES

A nuclear accident occurs at Three Mile Island power plant ... "My Sharona" is released by The Knack ... President Carter proposes that Martin Luther King's birthday be a national holiday ... *The Dukes of Hazzard* and *Knots Landing* premiere on CBS ... Bill Clinton is inaugurated governor of Arkansas ... Ann Meyers is the first woman signed by an NBA team, the Indiana Pacers ... The Department of Education is created ... Susan B. Anthony appears on the silver dollar, the first likeness of an American woman placed on a U.S. coin ... John Wayne dies of cancer ... *Taxi* wins the Emmy for Best Comedy Series ... Nelson Rockefeller dies, leaving behind an estate valued at \$66.5 million.

IN BASEBALL

Willie Mays and Hack Wilson are inducted into the Hall of Fame ... Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park leads to a riot and the White Sox forfeit to the Tigers ... Yankee catcher Thurman Munson dies in a plane crash ... The first league co-MVPs are crowned — Pittsburgh's Willie Stargell and St. Louis's Keith Hernandez ... Lou Brock and Carl Yastrzemski earn their 3,000th career hits ... Brock also finishes his career with 938 stolen bases, the highest total at the time ... Rickey Henderson, Tim Lincecum and Jesse Orosco make their Major League debuts ... Al Chambers, who is chosen by the Seattle Mariners, is the No. 1 pick in the amateur draft ... The Phillies beat the Cubs, 23-22, in a lengthy 11-home run, 50-hit slugfest ... The Pirates come all the way back from a 3-games-to-1 Series deficit against the Orioles to win the Fall Classic.

Top to bottom: "The Dukes of Hazzard" first aired, Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize, and Yaz notched hit No. 3,000 in 1979.



2001 ANNIVERSARIES

10 Years Ago (1991)

- Nolan Ryan fires the seventh and final no-hitter of his career.
- Dennis Martinez becomes the 13th pitcher to throw a perfect game.

25 Years Ago (1976)

- The only rainout in Astrodome history occurs when fans and umps can't get to the game due to rain.
- Hank Aaron retires as the HR and RBI king.



30 Years Ago (1971)

- The Orioles become the second team with four 20-game winners (Palmer, McNally, Cuellar, Dobson).

35 Years Ago (1966)

- Emmett Ashford becomes the first African-American to umpire a Major League game.



40 Years Ago (1961)

- Roger Maris hits a then-record 61 home runs for the Yankees.

50 Years Ago (1951)

- Midget Eddie Gaedel pinch-hits for the Browns.
- Bobby Thomson strokes his "Shot Heard 'round the World" to give the Giants the NL pennant.

75 Years Ago (1926)

- Major League pitchers are first allowed to use rosin bags on the mound during a game.

100 Years Ago (1901)

- The American League forms with eight teams.

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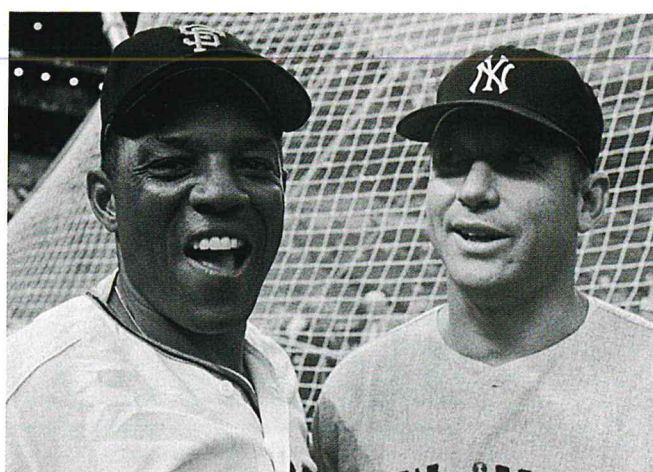


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By Bob Nightengale

One night each summer,
players have the chance to be the best of the best.
These are the most memorable All-Star Game
Most Valuable Players.





From left: Maury Wills was the first-ever All-Star MVP in 1962. Willie Mays (left) shares a laugh with Mickey Mantle at the 1968 Midsummer Classic.

IT MAY NOT BE AS PRESTIGIOUS AS THE league MVP or Cy Young crowns, but there's nothing more magical than the All-Star MVP award, signifying that for at least one night, you are the greatest player in the game of baseball.

"There's nothing in the world like it," says former first baseman Steve Garvey, who won the 1974 and 1978 All-Star MVP awards. "Winning the MVP award for a long season is great, and being an MVP in the playoffs is special, but winning an All-Star MVP award is a chance to seize the spotlight.

"This is the one singular game in the entire season when all of the game's greats will be there, and winning the MVP award means that for one night, you were the best of the best. It's such a unique achievement.

"People can call it an exhibition game all they want, but when you go out there, you play for pride. You not only want to do well for all of your friends and family, but you want to do well for your team.

"Believe me, that's a game you want to win."

With that, here are 15 memorable Midsummer Classic performers.

★ **Maury Wills, 1962 MVP** ★ This was the apex season of Wills' career, setting the modern-day stolen base record with 104 steals, beating out Willie Mays for the NL MVP award, and setting career highs with 130 runs, 208 hits and winning a Gold Glove.

Yet the most vivid memory of the magical season was when Wills won the inaugural All-Star MVP award, right in his hometown of Washington D.C. in the contest in which the NL won, 3-1.

"I was so brash in those days. I never got any votes from the pitchers or catchers in the game, so the manager had to select me," Wills says.

"I was sitting on the bench during the game next to Stan Musial, and I said, 'Stan, look at this. You pinch-hit for somebody, and I'll pinch-run for you.' Well, Stan pinch-hit in the sixth and I went to run for him.

"I was thinking, 'Here it is.' I always felt that if you're in the All-Star Game, you want to do what you do best. If it was Hank Aaron, he wanted homers. Koufax didn't want to pitch two scoreless innings — he wanted to strike out three or four. Well, I didn't want to hit home runs — I wanted to steal a base.

"But before I could steal, the next guy up hit a ball to left field. I made a wide turn at second, put the brakes on, and I knew Rocky Colavito would try to nail me at second. So I faked like I was going back, and dove head-first into third base. And then I scored when I tagged up on a foul pop-up by the first-base dugout.

"That was my game right there."

Did You Know? *When Wills stole his 104 bases in 1962, he was caught stealing only 13 times.*

★ **Willie Mays, 1963 and 1968 MVP** ★ Mays, considered perhaps baseball's greatest all-around player, was a fixture at the Midsummer Classic. He played in 24 All-Star Games, and started in 18 of them. However, his talent was never better exemplified than in the 1963 contest.

Mays, who hit 660 home runs and was elected to the Hall of Fame on the first ballot, produced a hit, drove in two runs, scored two runs, stole two bases and made a spectacular catch to rob Joe Pepitone of an extra-base hit against the center-field fence in the NL's 5-3 triumph.

Take Us Out To The Ballgame.

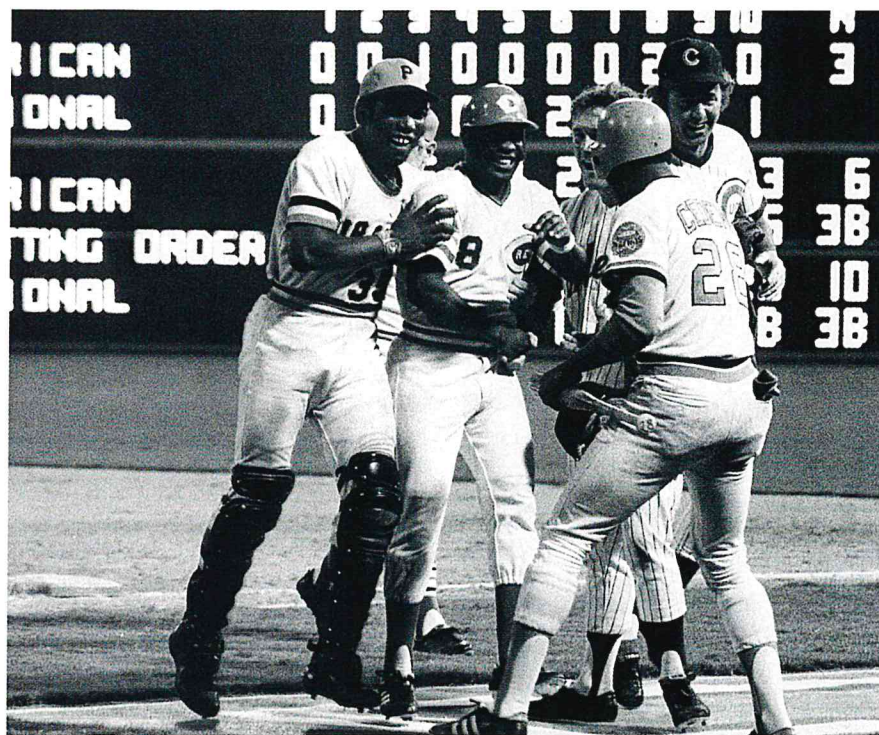


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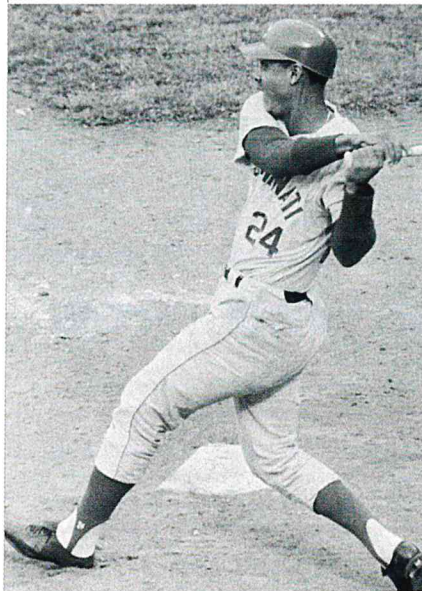
In masterful late-inning heroics, Tony Perez, (right) belted a game-winning homer in the 1967 All-Star Game. Joe Morgan (top, 8) drove in the winning run in the '72 contest.

"I wasn't even supposed to play that game," Mays says. "We were coming back from Philadelphia, and I had just had a collision in the outfield. My whole body was aching. [Manager] Alvin Dark came to me before the game and asked whether I could play. I said, 'Of course. It'd be an honor.'"

"That's the way it was in those days. It meant a lot to be an All-Star. In order to get to the All-Star Game, you had to be good. And when you got there, you wanted to win. I remember Roberto [Clemente], [Hank] Aaron and myself were at most of the All-Star Games together. And we hated to lose. That's why you always saw the National League win."

Did You Know? Willie Mays' first career hit was a home run off Warren Spahn. "He was 0 for 23 when I faced him," says Spahn, "and then he hit it out, and he was off and running."

★ **Juan Marichal, 1965 MVP** ★ Marichal faced the minimum nine batters in the National League's 6-5 victory, but it was actually his epic pitching performance in 1963 for San Francisco against longtime All-Star Warren



Spahn and the Milwaukee Braves that he most fondly remembers, pitching 16 shutout innings and winning, 1-0.

"Our manager, Alvin Dark, wanted to take me out after nine innings but I pleaded with him to let me stay," Marichal says. "Around the 14th inning, he wanted to take me out for sure. I told him, 'Look, that old guy that's pitching over there is 42 years old. I'm 22 and I don't want to get out of here while he's staying on the mound.'"

"I told Warren that story when we were in Cooperstown, and he told me that he had told his manager, 'Oh that

little kid isn't going to beat me, so I'm going to stay here, too.'"

Mays finally won the game with a home run in the 16th inning.

"You know something, I always pitched every fourth day," Marichal says. "That was the only time in my career I was given an extra day's rest before I made my next start."

Did You Know? Marichal was nearly flawless in the Midsummer Classic, going 2-0 with a 0.50 ERA in 18 innings.

★ **Tony Perez, 1967 MVP** ★ The game went on into the night. And on. And on. And on. It wasn't until the 15th inning, 13 innings after the National League had last scored, that the game ended on Tony Perez's home run off Catfish Hunter for a 2-1 win.

"It's my biggest moment in baseball," says Perez, who became the first player from Cuba ever to be voted into the Hall of Fame by the sportswriters. "I've had greater moments as far as winning World Series, but not individually."

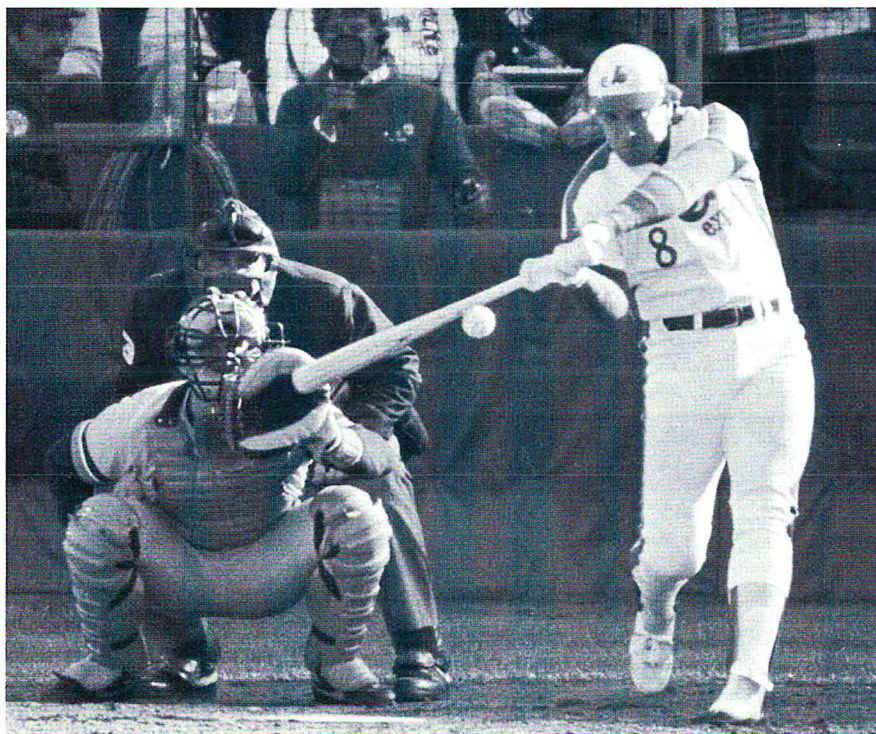
"It was the twilight, and everyone was having trouble seeing the ball. I remember Roberto Clemente struck out all four times. I don't think he did that another time in his life. I sat on the bench in the 10th, but by the time I was done playing, it was like I played a whole game."

Did You Know? Tony Perez's parents never saw him play a professional baseball game. Perez signed with the Reds in 1960. Since Fidel Castro had taken over in Cuba in 1959, he refused to let Perez's parents leave the country.

★ **Joe Morgan, 1972 MVP** ★ They called him "Little Joe," and he was the sparkplug in the Cincinnati Reds' Big Red Machine. Blessed with amazing power and blistering speed, he became the first player to steal 60 bases while hitting more than 25 home runs.

The 10-time All-Star says that he'll forever remember his single in that 1972 Midsummer Classic that drove in Nate Colbert in the bottom of the 10th inning, winning the game, 4-3, in Atlanta.

"You know, that was the first All-Star Game I ever started," Morgan says, "and at that particular time, that was the high point in my career. It was such a great thrill. I spent the day



hanging out with Willie Stargell, who was my hero and my friend, and then I was able to get that big hit.

"It was special, being the smallest guy on the field and playing with the greatest players in the game. I was the only (player on my team) who played the entire game. I got a great compliment from (Manager) Danny Murtaugh. He came up to me afterward and said, 'I knew if the game went long enough, you'd do something special.'"

Did You Know? Morgan, who promised his mother that he would earn his college degree, secretly went to class in the off-season and earned his diploma at the age of 47 from Cal State Hayward.

Clockwise from top: Gary Carter, Bo Jackson and Steve Garvey were all the best of the best, as they earned All-Star Game MVP awards. Left: 1986 All-Star MVP Roger Clemens shakes hands with opposing pitcher Dwight Gooden.

★ **Steve Garvey, 1974 and 1978 MVP** ★ Garvey had a star-studded career filled with wonderful memories, but none, he says, tops the 1974 All-Star Game in which he was named the MVP and led the NL to a 7-2 win.

"I wasn't even on the All-Star ballot," Garvey says. "Walter Alston wanted to give Von Joshua a chance at first base, so I didn't start until the third game of the year. So Von's name was on the ballot, not mine. There was a groundswell of support out of my hometown in Tampa as a write-in candidate, and I was voted a starter.

"Well, five days before the game, I got sick. My jowls started swelling up.

Doctors couldn't figure it out. It turns out it was the mumps. Yogi Berra asked if I still wanted to play and I said, 'I've got to play — people voted me in.'

"I was just praying I wouldn't embarrass myself because I felt so bad. I was doing all my, 'Our Fathers' and 'Hail Marys' and I hit a single up the middle and hooked a double down the line. I was ecstatic. It was the third inning and I figured I was coming out.

"Well, the inning went on, and Tony Perez, the only other first baseman on the roster, went in to pinch-hit. And then he was taken out for a pinch-runner. Yogi came up to me at the end of the inning and said, 'Good job, I'm putting Perez in now.'

"I said, 'Yogi, you just took him out for a pinch-hitter.' He said, 'I did?'

"I ended up being the only (NL) player to play all nine innings."

Did You Know? Garvey became the first NL player in history to receive more than four million votes in 1977.

★ **Gary Carter, 1981 and 1984 MVP** ★ Carter hit three home runs to win MVP honors in two All-Star Games, but it was the 1981 affair in which he hit two solo homers in the NL's 5-4 win that he most fondly remembers.

"I had never started in an All-Star Game until that year," says Carter, who first made the All-Star team in 1975. "That year was the strike-shortened season, and after waiting 50 days to get back to playing baseball, I was so eager and excited to play again.

"It was a strange game because there were no festivities or anything. We just went in and played the game. My first home run was off Ken Forsch. My second homer was off Ron Davis, and I jumped on his first pitch. It hit the top of the fence and Dave Winfield just missed it.

"But the most memorable thing was as I was watching the ball, I lost my footing around first base. I actually stumbled and fell down. I got up, dusted things off, and went around the bases. (Manager) Dick Williams had such a big smile on his face when I came into the dugout."

Did You Know? Carter ripped his pants before the start of the 1981 Mid-summer Classic. He forgot to bring a second pair of pants, and needed some quick stitching handiwork before he could go onto the field.

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POWER



★ **Roger Clemens, 1986 MVP** ★ Fernando Valenzuela may have struck out five consecutive batters in the American League's 3-2 win, tying an All-Star record, but Roger Clemens walked away with the MVP award in front of his hometown fans in Houston, becoming the first American League pitcher to win the honor.

Clemens, who grew up near Houston and attended the University of Texas, pitched three perfect innings to start the 57th All-Star Game. Clemens threw only 25 pitches, and nearly every pitch was flawless, as he fired 21 strikes. The last pitcher to throw three perfect innings in an All-Star Game was former Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Stone in 1980.

"I did feel pretty good," Clemens says. "With all the home folks in the crowd, the adrenaline was going."

Clemens, who won only 16 games the previous two seasons and was coming off shoulder surgery, became a household name that year, going 24-4 for the Red Sox while winning the MVP and Cy Young awards. Since then, Clemens has become the only pitcher in history to win five Cy Young awards.

"I'm relentless," says Clemens. "I like to pound guys. I like to challenge power hitters with my fastball. It gets my blood pumping."

"I want those big hitters to have to make a split-second decision on a 96-mph fastball inside at their letters, and they can't."

"People say they're surprised that I'm still pitching. They said it couldn't be done. But there are a lot of things I've done that haven't been done before."

Did You Know? Clemens' performance enabled the American League to win its first All-Star Game in a National League stadium since 1962 when it was at Wrigley Field.

★ **Bo Jackson, 1989 MVP** ★ Bo Jackson, perhaps the greatest athlete in baseball history, burst into the national consciousness in one unforgettable night with a leadoff 448-foot home run that disappeared over the center-field fence, setting the tone for the AL's 5-3 win.

"I remember coming into the dugout and Kirby Puckett yelled at me, 'Damn, you trying to kill Big Daddy (Rick Reuschel),' " Jackson says, laughing. "I'll probably remember that more than any other time in baseball. But it's



Clockwise from right: Cal Ripken blasted a homer in the '91 contest to capture the MVP, while Ken Griffey Jr. homered a year later to win the same honor. Mike Piazza, the 1996 All-Star MVP, shined in his Philadelphia homecoming.

a good thing I don't ever turn my fire-place on."

Why is that?

"Because my All-Star trophy is sitting in there."

The athletically gifted Jackson, who also was a star running back for the Oakland Raiders while playing the outfield for the Kansas City Royals, suffered a freak hip injury in the 1991 NFL playoffs that prematurely ended his career.

"I don't have any regrets," he says. "None. I wouldn't have done anything differently."

"When I left college at (Auburn), my goal wasn't to be the world's greatest baseball player. It wasn't to

be the world's greatest football player. It was to grow up and live comfortably for the rest of my life."

"And that's what I'm doing."

Did You Know? Jackson joined Willie Mays and Stan Musial as the only players to homer and steal a base in the same All-Star Game.

★ **Cal Ripken Jr., 1991 MVP** ★ Cal Ripken, who has long embodied Baltimore's blue-collar work ethic, becoming baseball's Ironman by playing in 2,632 consecutive games, not only won the home run contest, but also the MVP award with a game-winning three-run homer in 1991 that gave the AL the 4-2 win.

THE FIRST STAR OF STARS

abe Ruth was already 38 years old with a belly hanging over his belt during the first All-Star Game in 1933, but this was the man everyone wanted to see at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

Ruth, who always had a flair for the dramatic, thrilled the crowd of 47,595 by hitting a home run in the third inning. It wasn't his most sensational or longest home run, but what better man to hit the first home run in All-Star Game history than the Bambino.

The home run, hit off St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Bill Hallahan, landed in the lower pavilion just inside the right-field foul pole. The raucous crowd, American and National League fans alike, arose as one to cheer Ruth as he slowly trotted around the bases.

Ruth even made a game-saving catch in the game, preserving the American League's 4-2 victory.





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Ironically, it occurred on the 50-year anniversary of Ted Williams' game-winning three-run home run in the 1941 Midsummer Classic. It also was the first home run by an Oriole in an All-Star game since Ken Singleton 10 years earlier.

"I was concerned about being in the home run derby because ordinarily when you try to hit home runs in batting practice, you get into bad habits," says Ripken, who is only the seventh player in baseball history to have 400 homers and 3,000 hits. "In hindsight, maybe the home run derby helped me to relax for the game."

Did You Know? *Ripken had only three hits without an RBI in 20 All-Star at-bats before his 1991 heroics.*

★ **Ken Griffey Jr., 1992 MVP** ★ It may be a game more remembered for Cy Young winner Tom Glavine giving up seven consecutive hits in the first inning than anything else in the American League's 13-6 rout.

Griffey provided the brunt of the damage, hitting a homer, double and single, making the Griffey's the first father and son ever to not only hit homers in an All-Star Game, but also win the MVP award. Ken Sr. homered and won MVP honors in the 1980 game at Dodger Stadium.

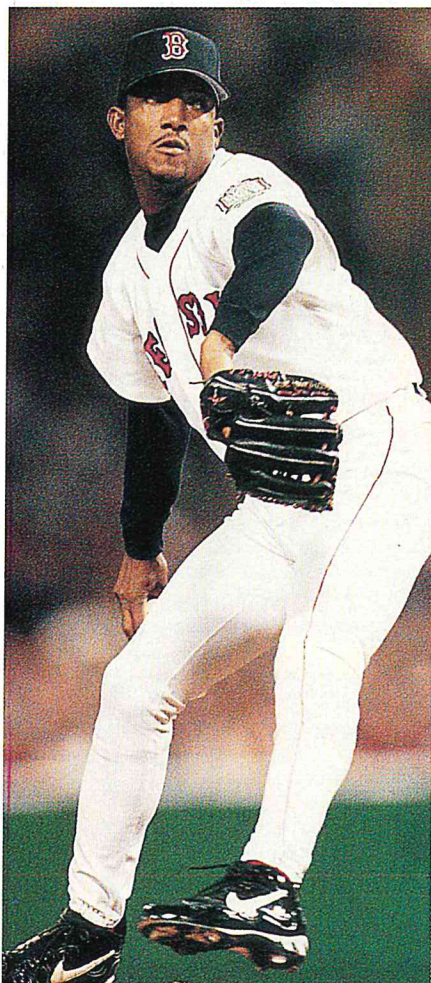
"It means a lot, knowing he played in the All-Star Game and he homered, too," says Junior, who played alongside his dad for a year in Seattle. "It's not like I wanted to duplicate what he did. I just wanted to have fun."

"That's still the greatest moment of my career, playing with my dad. Nothing comes close. And you know something? Nothing ever will."

Did You Know? *Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Griffey Jr. are the only players ever to drive in at least 140 runs in three consecutive seasons.*

★ **Kirby Puckett, 1993 MVP** ★ There have been few more popular players in baseball than Puckett, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer.

Puckett went 2 for 3 with a home run and a double with two RBI in the American League's 9-3 victory at Camden Yards in Baltimore. No one realized at the time that he would play in only two more Midsummer Classics before glaucoma would prematurely end his career in 1996.



From left: Pedro Martinez shocked the NL hitters with his dominance in the 1999 All-Star Game, while Puckett, a fan favorite, rose above everyone else en route to his '93 MVP performance.

"I know there are people out there who feel sorry for me," Puckett says. "But you know what? I feel blessed."

"It wasn't the end of the world. It just meant that I couldn't play baseball anymore. You know, it's like playing poker. You get dealt a hand. You can either hold 'em or fold 'em."

"I've been a survivor my whole life. I knew that one day it was going to end. Baseball wasn't going to last forever. I was just hoping it would last longer than it did."

Did You Know? *Puckett's home run and double in the 1993 All-Star Game were his only extra-base hits in his 10 All-Star Game appearances.*

★ **Mike Piazza, 1996 MVP** ★ It was a script that can usually be found only in Hollywood.

A local boy, who grew up in the Philadelphia area, who worshiped Phillies Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt,

and was only a 62nd-round draft pick, comes back to Veterans Stadium, leads the team to a 6-0 victory and walks away with the MVP trophy after Schmidt throws out the first pitch.

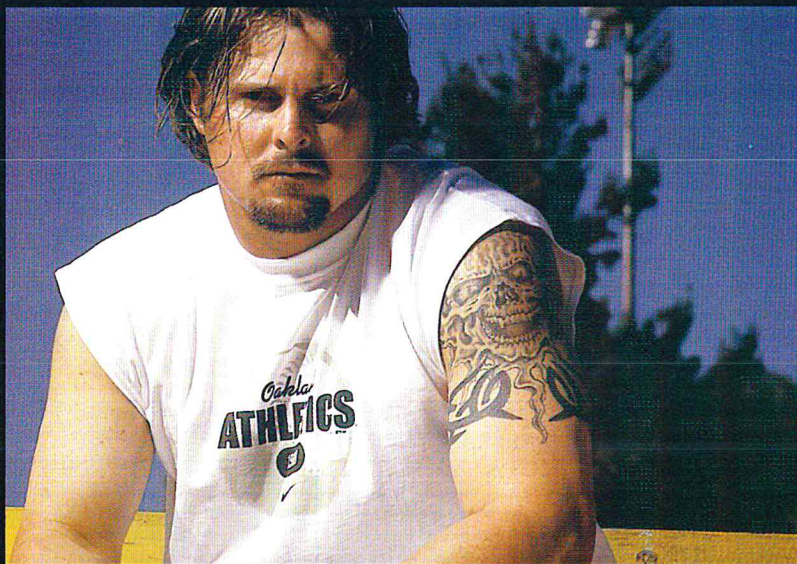
"My dad would always say, 'If you work hard, dreams do come true,'" Piazza says. "Always believe in yourself, even when others don't. Look for an opportunity, then take it."

Piazza already was on cloud nine when he caught Schmidt's ceremonial first pitch, in which Schmidt inscribed a message to Piazza: "You're the best."

"That's when it all hit me — on that (ceremonial) first pitch," Piazza says.

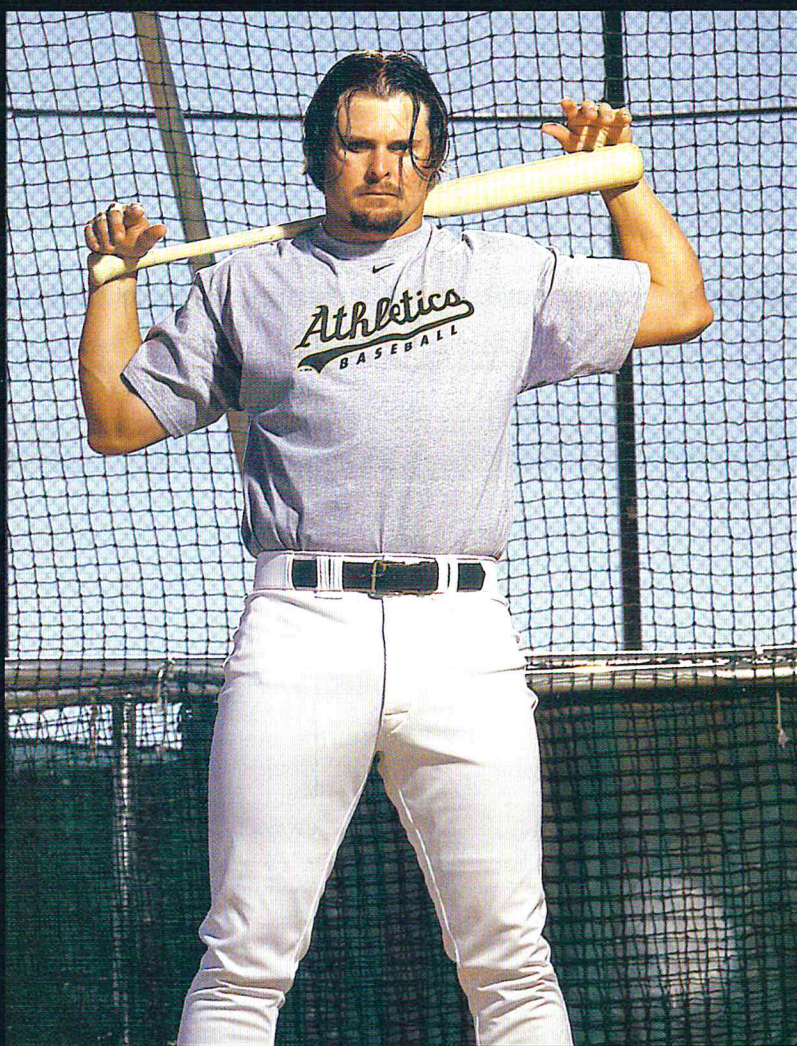
In Piazza's first plate appearance, he blasted a fastball 445 feet away into the left-field seats for a homer. In his next plate appearance, he went the other way, slamming a double off the right-field wall. It was vintage Piazza.

"Right after the game, I looked at my mom and she was in tears," Piazza



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says. "She was telling me, 'I'm so proud of you.' She knows how much it meant to me. And my dad, well, he was just beaming with pride. I finally had to say, 'That's enough Dad.'"

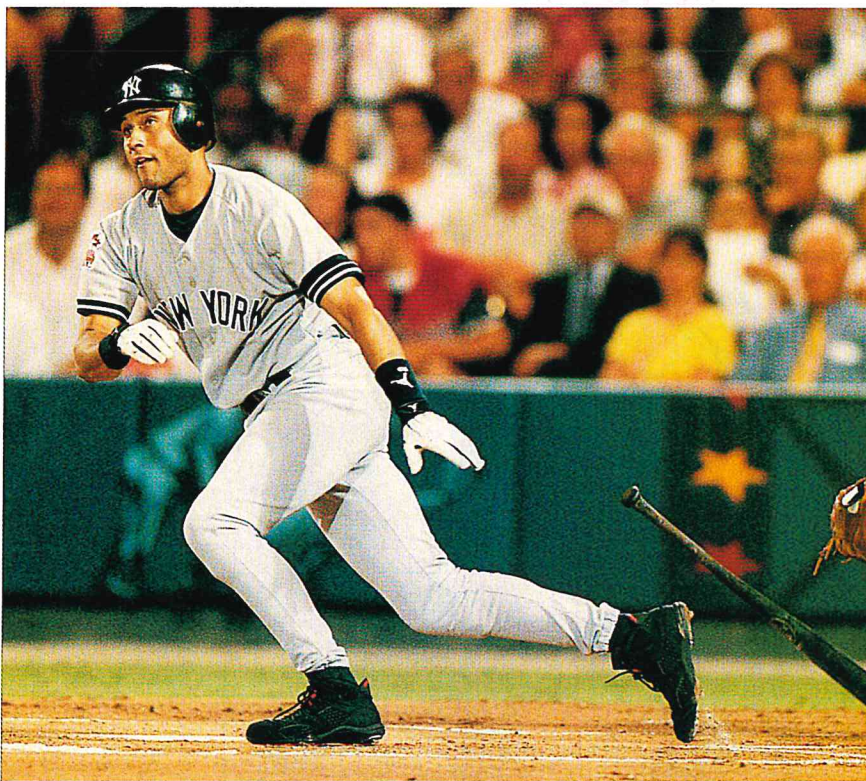
Did You Know? *Piazza, already considered the greatest hitting catcher in baseball history, was the 1,390th selection in the 1988 June Free Agent Draft.*

★ **Pedro Martinez, 1999 MVP** ★ The only thing more electrifying than Ted Williams' appearance on the field during the pregame All-Century Team celebration was Martinez's performance once the game started. Martinez became the first All-Star pitcher to strike out the first four batters, and struck out five of the six he faced overall, stifling the National League for a 4-1 win. He set down Barry Larkin, Larry Walker, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire and Jeff Bagwell. They had combined for 1,454 career home runs at the time.

"Those guys are some of the best in the world," Martinez says. "I got them that night. But they could just have easily hit home runs off me. That's what makes our game so special."

Says McGwire: "I'll never forget that night. Guys were walking back to the bench just shaking their head. But the one thing we kept telling ourselves that made it somewhat comforting was: 'Thank God he's in the other league.'"

Did You Know? *Martinez endured the worst start of his Major League career in his first outing after the All-Star Game, giving up nine runs, seven earned, in just*



Derek Jeter inked himself into history, becoming the first Yankee to be named the All-Star MVP.

3 2/3 innings against the Florida Marlins. He was scratched from his next start, ending his incredible streak of 172 consecutive starts.

★ **Derek Jeter, 2000 MVP** ★ Babe Ruth didn't do it. Neither did Lou Gehrig. Not even Joe D. or the Mick.

Shortstop Derek Jeter became the only New York Yankee ever to win the Most Valuable Player award in the All-Star Game.

"It's tough to believe," Jeter says. "Look at all the Yankee greats over the years. You figure at least one of them would win one."

Jeter started the game only because his close friend, Alex Rodriguez, suffered a concussion. Yankees Manager Joe Torre selected Jeter over Boston's star shortstop, Nomar Garciaparra, to start the game, and the move paid immediate dividends for the AL as Jeter went 3 for 3 with a double and two-run single that gave his team a 6-3 win.

Considering that Jeter, at the age of 27, has already led his team to an amazing four World Series titles, after winning the 1996 American League Rookie of the Year award, can he be counted among the mix of the all-time Yankee greats?

"I don't think so," Jeter says. "You've got to play for a lot of years before you're considered a Yankee great. This is my sixth year. Hopefully, I can play for a few more years, then start that debate."

Did You Know? *Jeter struck out in his only two All-Star at-bats before 2000.* ♦

Bob Nightengale is a columnist/senior writer for USA Today Baseball Weekly.

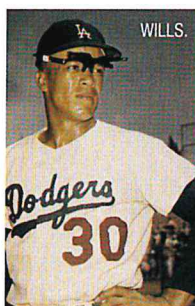
THE IMPOSTER

Maury Wills will forever be remembered as the man who won the first All-Star MVP award. Little does anyone know that he nearly never got a chance to enter the clubhouse, let alone play the game in his hometown of Washington D.C.

"I was staying home with my family instead of at the team hotel," Wills says. "When I got to RFK, the team bus had already arrived. So I came through with my Dodger duffel bag and I was wearing a very nice pair of white slacks, white shoes and a blue shirt, feeling proud of myself. I started to walk in, and the attendant wouldn't let me pass."

"I told him I was a Dodger player and was an All-Star, but he didn't believe me. I wasn't pleased with him. Finally, I said, 'Why don't you open the clubhouse door and ask my teammates in there.' Well, those guys, with their sick sense of humor, yelled out, 'We never saw him before.'"

"Thankfully a guy walked by with credentials and I got him to explain and confirm that I was Maury Wills of the Dodgers. When the game was over, I walked out with this trophy that was as big as me, and he was scratching his head. I still don't believe to this day that he thought I was a baseball player."



BY ERIC ENDERS

The ART of BASEBALL

IT'S

OFTEN SAID THAT PLAYING BASEBALL IS AN ART, WHICH IS CERTAINLY TRUE. BUT IF HITTING A CURVEBALL IS AN ART, IT'S AN ART THAT ONLY A RELATIVE FEW CAN MASTER. FOR MANY WHO RODE THE PINE IN LITTLE LEAGUE, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO *WRITE* ABOUT SOMEONE HITTING A CURVEBALL. FOR OTHERS IT'S EASIER TO SING ABOUT IT, MAKE A FILM ABOUT IT, OR PAINT IT. BASEBALL HAS BEEN USED SYMBOLICALLY IN THE WRITINGS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY, MARK TWAIN AND EVEN JANE AUSTEN (WHO, IN HER 1803 NOVEL *NORTHANGER ABBEY*, BECAME THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO USE THE WORD "BASEBALL" IN PRINT). ADMITTEDLY, ARTISTS HAVE OFTEN FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS WHAT BASEBALL MEANS TO THEM. FOR EVERY GOOD BASEBALL BOOK, FILM OR SONG, THERE ARE A DOZEN BAD ONES. SOMETIMES EVEN THE MOST VISIONARY ARTISTS CAN'T GET IT RIGHT.

IDENTIFYING WHAT MAKES A WORK OF ART GREAT IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE ART, MORE THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN ENDEAVOR, HAS DIFFERENT MEANINGS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE. SO LET'S SET A FEW GROUND RULES FOR THIS TOP 25 LIST. ALMOST ANY FORM OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION IS ELIGIBLE, BUT IT'S ONLY FOR WORKS PRIMARILY ABOUT BASEBALL. (SORRY, "MRS. ROBINSON.") HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT TAKES A BACK SEAT TO QUALITY AND CREATIVITY — WHICH IS WHY YOU WON'T FIND "CASEY AT THE BAT" LISTED EITHER. IN THE END, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF TASTE. IN THE 1972 FILM *PETE 'N' TILLIE*, WALTER MATTHAU IS SEEN TEACHING THE "WHO'S ON FIRST" ROUTINE TO HIS YOUNG SON, AND HIS WIFE ASKS HIM WHY HE'S BOTHERING THE KID WITH SUCH SILLINESS. "ABBOTT AND COSTELLO ARE NOT SILLY," HE REPLIES. "THIS IS ART." INDEED IT IS.

1

"WHO'S ON FIRST"

Comedy

Bud Abbott & Lou Costello,
performers

Who? Yes. What started as an ordinary vaudeville routine became a sublime comic masterpiece. The wordplay in this simple yet ingenious skit has become synonymous with baseball, and, unlike most other comedy routines, it hasn't aged a bit. Abbott and Costello performed "Who's on First" an estimated 10,000 times, but even after their deaths, the skit has taken on a life of its own. A video of the routine plays continuously at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown N.Y., where it is by far the most popular attraction. It's even a key plot point in the Oscar-winning film *Rain Man*, in which Dustin Hoffman's character, obsessed with the skit, is able to sum up his life in one sentence: "All I'm trying to find out is what's the guy's name on first base."



2

FAREWELL SPEECH

Oratory

Lou Gehrig

It is the best-known speech in sports history, but amazingly, nobody knows exactly what Lou Gehrig said when 60,000 fans packed Yankee Stadium to honor him on July 4, 1939. Gehrig's speech lasted about five minutes, but only three sentences of it still survive on audio recordings — including, thankfully, the line in which Gehrig proclaims himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." Gehrig had spent the previous night agonizing over the speech, crossing out phrases and rewriting them until he was completely satisfied. But when the time came to speak, he set aside his prepared remarks and spoke from the heart. His words have been called baseball's Gettysburg Address, and will always stand as the poignant farewell of an athlete dying young.





3 BROADCAST OF SANDY KOUFAX'S PERFECT GAME
Oratory
Vin Scully

With words that fit together like those of a master poet, Scully took fans on a nail-biting journey through the nine innings of Koufax's perfect game on Sept. 9, 1965. ("There are 29,000 people in the park, and a million butterflies," he said as the ninth inning started.) In the days of radio, Scully was known for game descriptions so detailed that he once received an award from a blind people's organization for his "incredible gift of painting vivid word pictures so those without sight can also see Dodger baseball." "I would think that the mound at Dodger Stadium right now is the loneliest place in the world," Scully said as Koufax neared perfection. It may have been lonely for Koufax, but for those listening, it was an exciting ride in the company of baseball's most eloquent announcer.



4 "TENEMENT BASEBALL"
Photography
Lewis Hine

Taken in Boston in 1909, this photo, with its towering tenement walls and laundry blowing in the wind, is emblematic of baseball's key role in the American experience. Hine, one of the foremost photographers in American history, dedicated his life to documenting the brutal conditions faced by immigrant children in urban slums. In a body of work that conveys little hope, "Tenement Baseball" stands out because it is one of the few Hine photos that shows kids actually enjoying themselves, revealing baseball as the primary source of joy in young lives filled with despair.

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SUMMER CATCH



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SOUNDTRACK ALBUM ON
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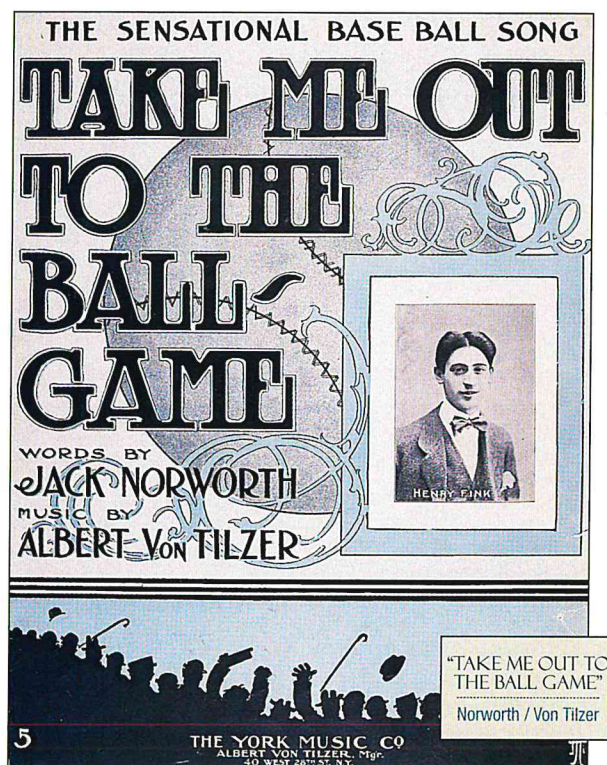
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5 "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME"

Music

Jack Norworth (lyrics)
Albert Von Tilzer (music)

Written in 1908 by two men who had never seen a baseball game, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" has become, along with "Happy Birthday" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," one of the three most famous songs in American history. (Looking for the best version? Check out the rockin' 1982 recording by Boss imitator Bruce Springstone.) Despite its extraordinary popularity, most fans don't even know the whole song — the part we sing at the ballpark is only the chorus. The other two verses tell the story of Katie Casey, a devoted female fan who insists that her beau take her — where else? — out to the ballgame. In an era when respectable ladies were rarely seen at the ballpark, the song was an emphatic statement that women could be baseball fans, too.



6 "FENCES"

Literature

August Wilson, playwright

Winner of the 1987 Pulitzer Prize, *Fences* is a courageous play about Troy Maxson, an ex-con and retired Negro Leagues slugger struggling to survive in an African-American community where, he says, "you born with two strikes on you before you come to the plate." One of the most remarkable characters in American literature, Troy (who was based on Homestead Grays outfielder Sam Bankhead and played on Broadway by James Earl Jones) is able to stare death in the face without blinking. "You can't tell me nothing about death," he says. "Death ain't nothing but a fastball on the outside corner."

The ART of BASEBALL

7 TY COBB STEALING THIRD

Photography

Charles Conlon

This, the most famous baseball photograph of all time, was taken by accident. Conlon was chatting idly with third baseman Jimmy Austin when suddenly, "Jimmy turned, backed into the base, and was greeted by a storm of dirt, spikes, shoes, uniforms — and Ty Cobb," Conlon later wrote. When the photographer got home, he found that "in my excitement, I had snapped it, by instinct." The resulting image — the clenched teeth and determined face, the flying dirt, the sprawling fielder — tells us more about Ty Cobb than words ever could.



TY COBB

Charles Conlon

WRIGLEY FIELD
Zachary Taylor Davis,
head architect

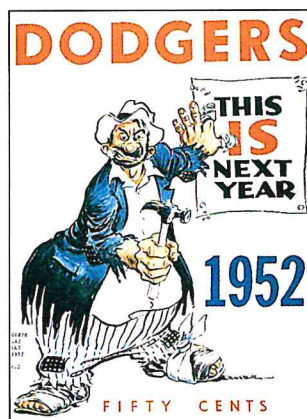


8 "THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES"
Literature
Lawrence Ritter, editor

In 1961 Ritter, a college economics professor, bought a tape recorder and traveled across the country recording the life stories of as many retired ballplayers as he could find. The result was the greatest baseball book ever published, one that reflects on the lives of Christy Mathewson, Honus Wagner and John McGraw with warmth, humor and insight. It is also a vivid portrait of America just after the turn of the century, when the best way to escape from a life of farming or coal mining was to become a good enough ballplayer to make the big leagues.

9 THE BROOKLYN BUM
Visual Arts
Willard Mullin

The term "Dem Bums" was coined by disgusted Dodger fans to describe the inept Brooklyn teams of the 1930s, but thanks largely to Mullin's lovable cartoon character, fans continued to embrace the name even as the team became a juggernaut in the 1950s. Created by Mullin in 1937, the Bum was soon a cottage industry, appearing in the *New York World Telegram* almost daily and becoming an annual fixture on the cover of the Dodger yearbook. For a generation of Brooklyn fans, the Bum came to symbolize their hopes for the team — though often down, they were never out.



THE BROOKLYN
BUM
Willard Mullin

10 WRIGLEY FIELD
Architecture
Zachary Taylor Davis,
head architect

The best of the classic concrete-and-steel stadiums, Wrigley is situated three blocks from Lake Michigan, allowing the lake breezes to affect the game enough to make things interesting. It was built in stages, with installments completed in 1914, '22, '28 and '37. (The scoreboard and ivy were added the latter year by 23-year-old Cubs assistant Bill Veeck.) As a result, the ballpark is a glorious hodgepodge of elements shaped by the neighborhood surrounding it, and there has never been a better place to watch a baseball game.

The ART of BASEBALL

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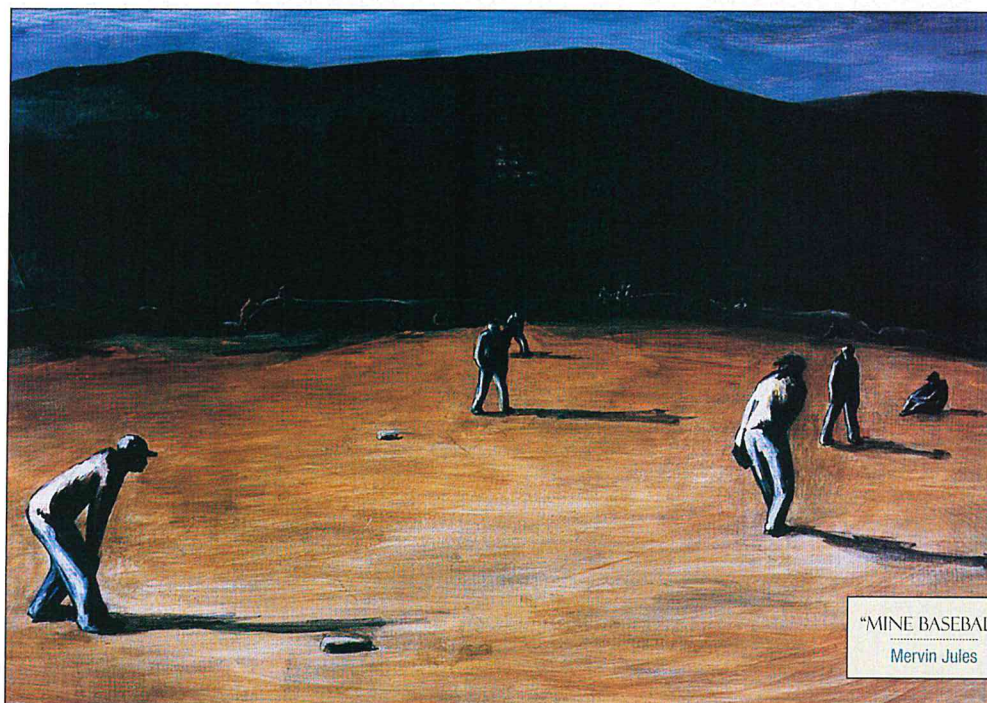


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11 "MINE BASEBALL" Visual Arts Mervin Jules

Like Lewis Hine, Mervin Jules spent much of his life documenting the lives of the downtrodden, using his impressionistic paintbrush to depict the sorrow of the Great Depression. "I was collecting studies among the bootleg miners in western Pennsylvania, and saw a group of miners on a slag field playing baseball," Jules wrote of his inspiration for "Mine Baseball." "They cast long shadows and it all fascinated me." The result is a haunting and evocative portrait of industrial baseball, the world of mills and mines that produced such greats as Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Shoeless Joe Jackson.



"MINE BASEBALL"
Mervin Jules

12 THE BOX SCORE Pop Art Henry Chadwick, inventor

As Roger Angell wrote, a box score is really "a precisely etched miniature of the game itself." The best box scores are like good novels, with plot development, multiple layers of meaning and delicious surprises. Sportswriting pioneer Henry Chadwick devised the form in the 1850s, and for more than a century since, fans have started their days by studying box scores in the morning paper. Seasoned experts can glean a wealth of information from this two-inch wide block of print, while new fans still find it the easiest way to learn the statistical side of the game.

ATHLETIC vs. PICKED NINE.

Saturday, 31st ult., had been fixed upon as the time of playing the return game between the Athletic and Olympic Clubs, of Quakertown, but owing to the absence of some of the latter's nine, the contest was postponed; but, in order to furnish some amusement to those who had assembled on the grounds, the Athletics played against a nine picked from the Keystone, Olympic, Intrepid and National clubs, Meyerle and Berry taking the places of McBride and Harrop on the nine of the former. The score is all that we can make room for:

ATHLETIC.	H.	R.	E.	PICKED NINE.	H.	R.	E.		
Reach, 2d b.....	2	8	7	Halbach, c.....	5	1	1		
Radcliff, c.....	4	5	7	Flowers, s.....	4	2	5		
Cuthbert, 1 f.....	1	9	8	Moore, 1st b.....	3	2	1		
Fisler, 1st b.....	4	5	6	Pollock, r f.....	1	3	4		
Sensunderfer, c f.....	3	5	5	McKibben, p.....	2	0	1		
McKallen, s s.....	1	6	6	Murray, 1 f.....	1	1	2		
Foran, 3d b.....	6	4	4	Clinton, 2d b.....	4	0	0		
Berry, r f.....	2	7	4	Rorke, 3d b.....	3	1	1		
Meyerle, p.....	4	5	6	Spooner, c f.....	4	0	1		
Totals.....	27	54	53	Totals.....	27	10	14		
INNINGS.....	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Picked Nine.....	3	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	0-10
Athletic.....	3	10	9	5	4	6	8	5	8-54

Fly catches—Sensunderfer, 5; Cuthbert, 3; Foran, 2; Fisler, 1; Berry, 1—total, 12. Halbach, 2; Moore, 2; McKibben, 2; Murray, 2; Flowers, 1; Clinton, 1—total, 11. Double plays—Foran and Fisler, 1; Pollock and Clinton, 1. Home runs—Reach, 2; Cuthbert, 1; Foran, 1; Pollock, 1. Total number of bases on clean hits—Athletics, 9; Picked Nine, 20. Umpire—Mr. Cronin, of the National, of Washington. Game lasted 45 minutes.

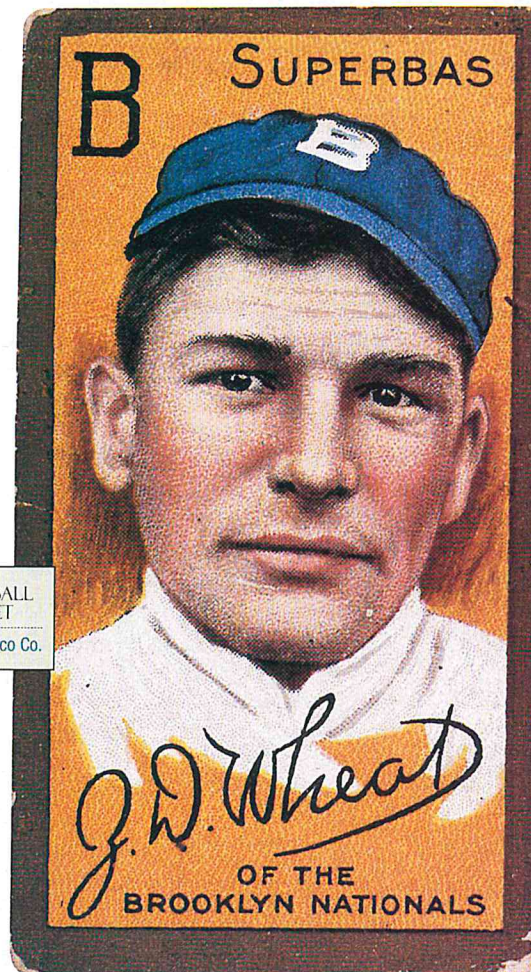
THE BOX SCORE
Henry Chadwick

13 T205 BASEBALL CARD SET Visual Arts American Tobacco Co., distributor

Issued in 1911 as an incentive to buy cigarette brands such as Sweet Caporal and Piedmont, this was the set that proved baseball cards could be more than just crudely printed advertising inserts. The two-inch-tall cards featured metallic gold borders, strikingly colored backgrounds and thoughtful portraits of almost 200 players. The names of the artists and designers who created the set have been lost to history, but the cards themselves survive as testaments to the first great artistic breakthrough in baseball cards.

The
ART
of
BASEBALL

T205 BASEBALL
CARD SET
American Tobacco Co.





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HONUS WAGNER
Charles Conlon



- 14 "THE BOYS OF SUMMER"
Literature
Roger Kahn

The first serious book ever written about sports, Kahn's work is both an intimate memoir of his childhood and a nostalgic, unflinching portrait of the most colorful of all baseball teams: Jackie Robinson's Brooklyn Dodgers. Kahn tracks down the team members 20 years later, when they have become bankers, farmers, bartenders and construction workers. It's about baseball, but it's also a poignant exploration of how aging athletes deal with losing the one trait that separates them from everyone else: their athletic ability.

- 15 HONUS WAGNER
Photography
Charles Conlon

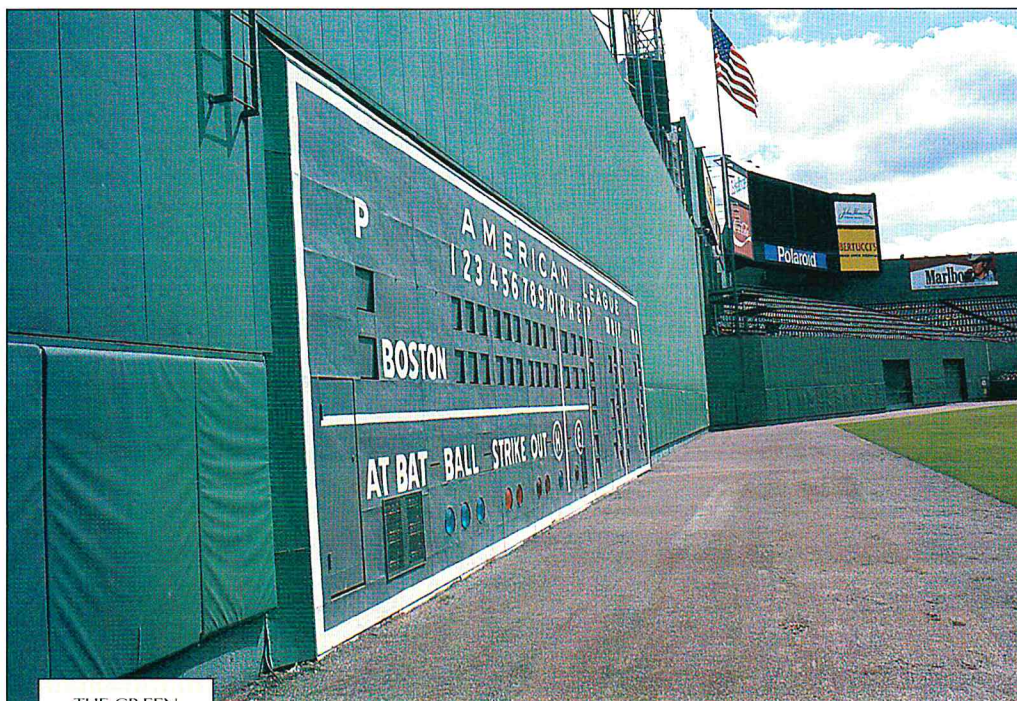
Conlon, a newspaper proofreader who shot photos as a hobby, took more than 30,000 baseball photographs in his 39-year career, and this is one of his best. It's a contemplative portrait of a veteran who has seen thousands of baseball games, and who has played the game better than anyone who came before him. Wagner's Herculean hands and wise, weathered face serve as a reminder that playing baseball was, above all, a feat of endurance in the days before trainers' tables, whirlpools and cortisone.



- 16 "FIELD OF DREAMS"
Film
Phil Alden Robinson (director)
W.P. Kinsella (novelist)

No baseball movie has ever captured the public imagination the way *Field of Dreams* did in 1989, when it revived fan interest in Shoeless Joe Jackson, became a pop culture staple and nabbed an Oscar nomination for Best Picture. It's one of the most original and visionary films Hollywood has ever made, daring its audience to come along on an unlikely spiritual journey. The film touched people so deeply that life has imitated art — 12 years after the fact, 60,000 visitors per year still make the pilgrimage to Dyersville, Iowa, where the original Field of Dreams stands. Admission, of course, is free.

The
ART
of
BASEBALL



THE GREEN MONSTER
James McLaughlin

17 THE GREEN MONSTER
Architecture
James McLaughlin, head architect

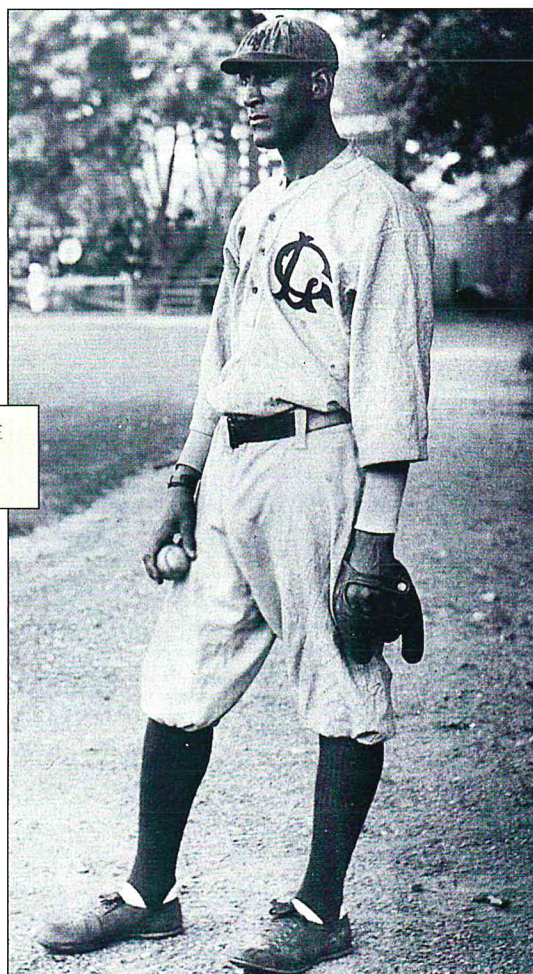
It may strike us as art today, but when the Monster was constructed in 1912, its purpose was purely commercial. At 25 feet high, it was built to prevent people in the apartments across Lansdowne Street from watching the game for free. In 1934 the wall was completely torn down and rebuilt to its current height of 35 feet. Soon afterward the advertisements were removed, the wall was painted green, and it became what it is today — baseball's most visible symbol of tradition and consistency.

18 "THE WEB OF THE GAME"
Literature
Roger Angell

In 1981 Angell wrote this essay about attending an NCAA tournament game with 91-year-old Smoky Joe Wood, the man who pitched the Red Sox to the 1912 world championship. The game that they saw together turned out to be a gut-wrenching pitcher's duel, with Yale's Ron Darling throwing 11 no-hit innings before losing to Frank Viola of St. John's in the 12th, 1-0. The writing eloquently explores and explains the timelessness of baseball. The combination of Wood's memories and the drama on the field unfolds like, as Angell put it, "some dreamlike doubleheader involving the then and the now."

19 SMOKY JOE WILLIAMS
Photography
Anonymous

For two decades, Smoky Joe Williams was one of the top hurlers in the Negro Leagues, throwing countless no-hitters and once striking out 27 batters in a game. Appropriately then, everything about this 1913 photograph screams pitcher. From Williams' long arms and tall, lanky build to the look of supreme confidence in his eyes, the image leaves little doubt that we are looking at a great pitcher. The photographer's name has been obscured by time, but the photo itself is a permanent reminder of the great Negro League players — and photographers — who spent their careers toiling in relative anonymity.



SMOKY JOE WILLIAMS
Anonymous

The
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of BASEBALL

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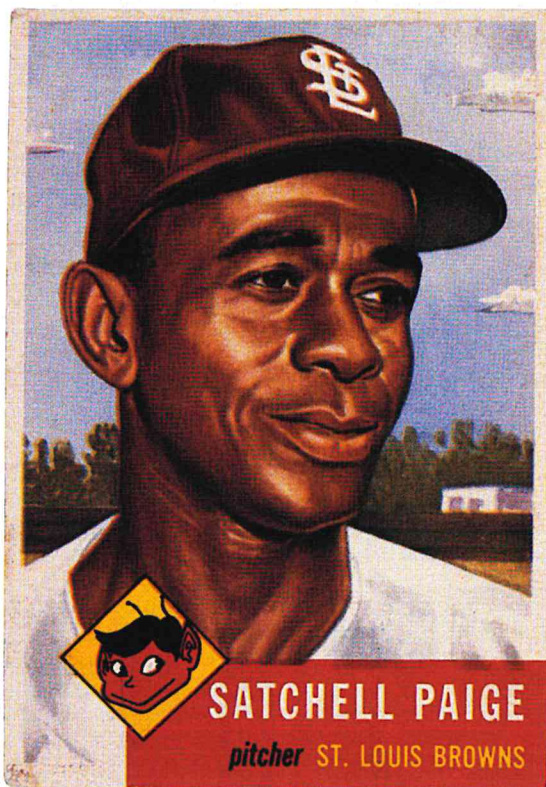
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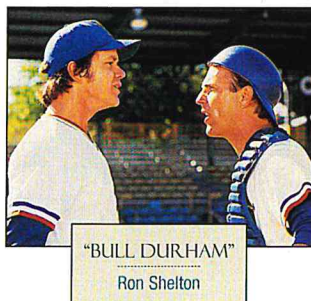


1953 TOPPS
BASEBALL CARDS
Topps Gum Company

The ART of BASEBALL

- 20 "BULL DURHAM"
Film
Ron Shelton, writer/director

The funniest film ever made about baseball, *Bull Durham* is a portrait of life in the bushes as only an ex-Minor Leaguer like Shelton could tell it. The film brims with authentic baseball characters, including flaky pitchers, cagey veterans, cranky managers and romantic groupies, along with a healthy dose of real life. It also contains one of the great movie monologues of all time, Crash Davis's Lee-Harvey-Oswald-acted-alone speech, which, alas, can't be quoted in a family magazine. Another Crash-ism, though, gives us a glimpse of the ballplayer's perfect philosophy of life: "Sometimes you win. Sometimes you lose. And sometimes, it rains."



"BULL DURHAM"
Ron Shelton

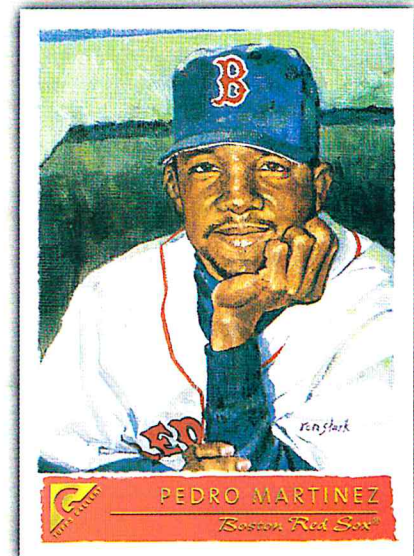
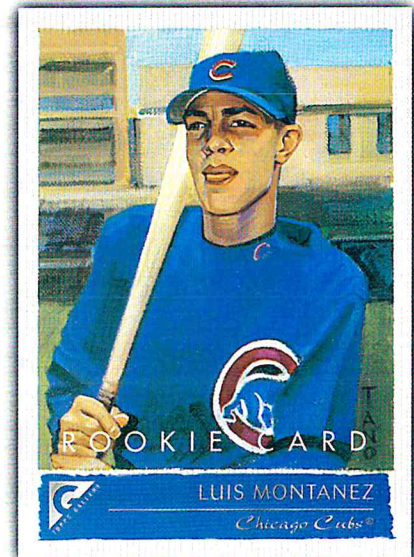
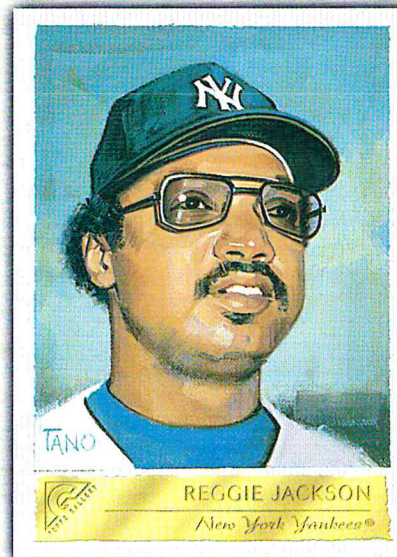
- 21 1953 TOPPS BASEBALL
CARD SET
Visual Arts
Topps Gum Company,
distributor

Baseball cards reached their creative peak in the 1950s, and this set was the best of the era. A talented team of artists, most notably Gerry Dvorak, painted painstaking portraits of the 274 players who were selected to appear in the set. The cards are simply and beautifully designed, leaving us to admire the bright, colorful likenesses of superstar players such as Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige and Minnie Minoso. Though hardly taken seriously as art when they were produced, it took only a few decades for the cards to move from the spokes of bicycle tires to the walls of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

- 22 "HOW TO KEEP YOUNG"
Philosophy
Satchel Paige

Paige was as famous for his home-spun wisdom as for his pitching, though both were beyond compare. This masterpiece, a list of seven tips on staying young, first appeared in a 1953 issue of *Collier's* magazine, and included gems like No. 2: "If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts." The most famous, though, was No. 6, "Don't look back — something might be gaining on you," which has become a pillar of pop culture. In the half-century since Paige coined the phrase, at least 232 different songs titled "Don't Look Back" have been written, including works by Bruce Springsteen, the Temptations and John Lee Hooker.

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2001 TOPPS GALLERY BASEBALL MUSEUM EDITION

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23 "BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL"

Comedy

George Carlin

In his unparalleled way, Carlin pokes fun at the national pastime by comparing it to the rougher, drearier sport of football. ("Baseball begins in the spring, the new season of life. Football begins in the fall, when everything's dying.") First performed in 1975, the skit is the funniest baseball routine since "Who's on First." But underneath the humor lies one of baseball's essential truths — that its unique elements of time, space and teamwork make it unlike any other sport ever devised.

24 ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS

Architecture

Joe Spear, head architect

Perhaps the most influential stadium ever built, Camden Yards is both an homage to the past and a masterpiece of modern urban architecture. It seamlessly blends in with the downtown waterfront around it, with the crowning achievement being the incorporation of the B&O Railroad warehouse into the right-field stands (an idea dreamed up by Eric Moss, a Syracuse University architecture student). Camden's success has inspired a rash of imitators, revolutionizing the ballpark experience for an entire generation of fans.



ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS

Joe Spear

The ART of BASEBALL

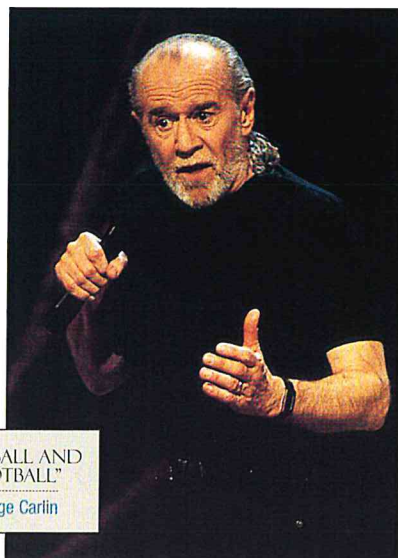
25 "CENTERFIELD"

Music

John Fogerty

Fogerty fuses authentic sounds of the ballpark — organ music and the crack of the bat — with guitars and drums, translating the baseball experience into great rock 'n' roll. The lyrics are bursting with references that could only be written by a genuine fan, including tributes to Chuck Berry, Shoeless Joe Jackson, "Casey At the Bat" and Fogerty's favorite baseball announcer, Lon Simmons. Above all, the song is a celebration of the joy that baseball brings to its fans, sustaining the sport's popularity from generation to generation. ♦

Eric Enders is a researcher at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library in Cooperstown, N.Y.

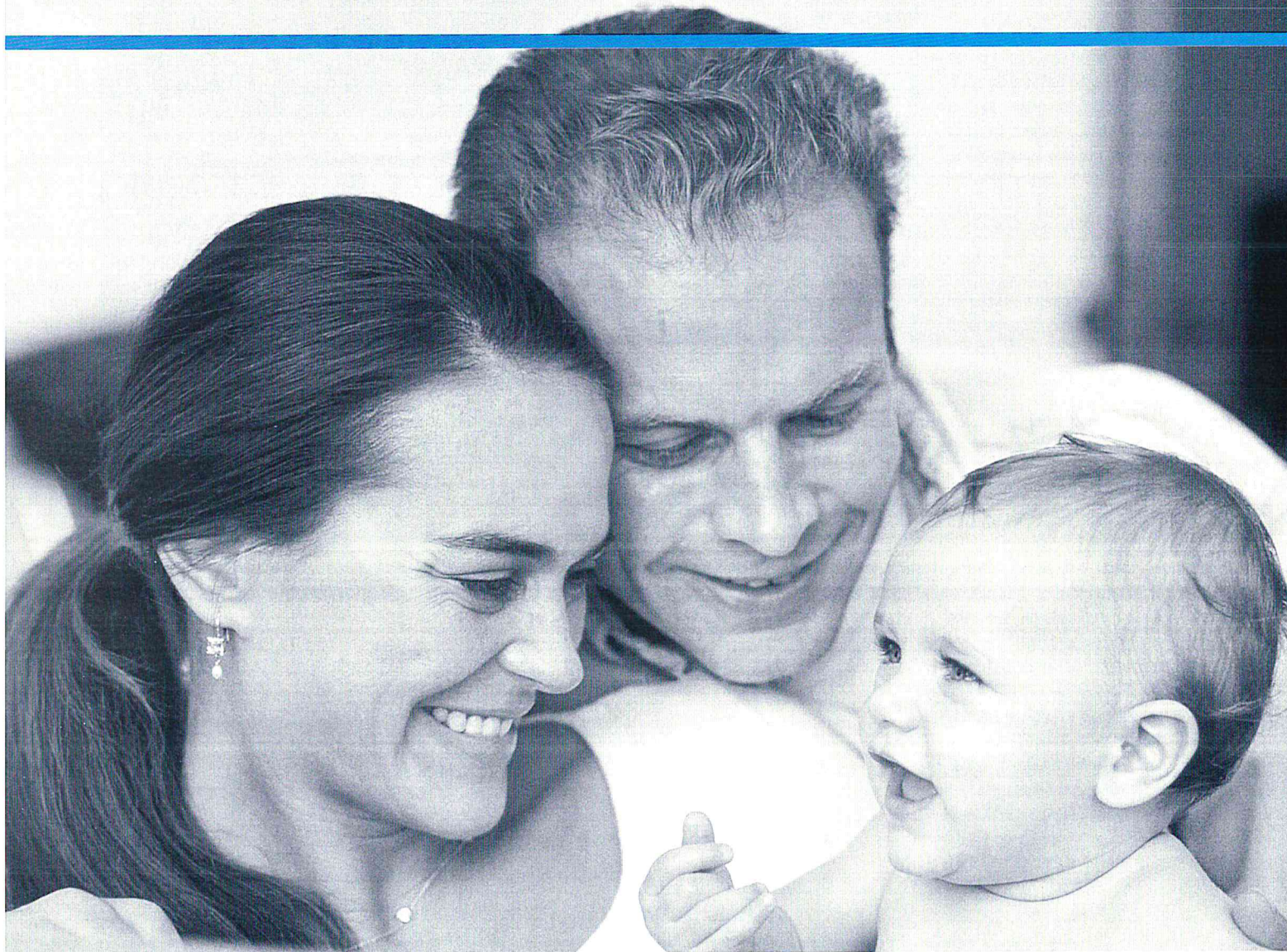


"BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL"
George Carlin



"CENTERFIELD"
John Fogerty

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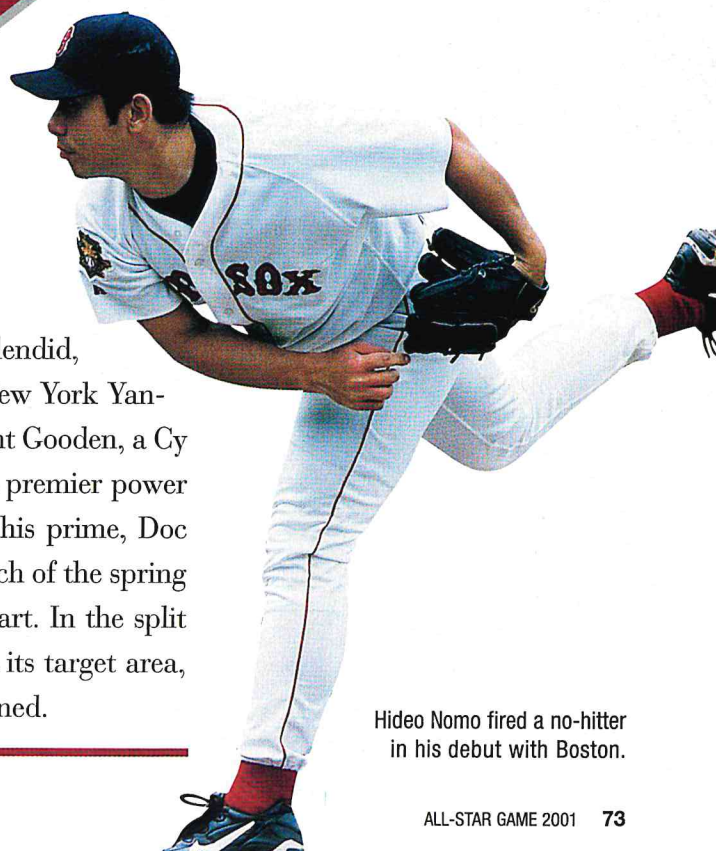
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■ BY SETH LIVINGSTONE

THE "High Strike" HAS BEEN CALLED
THIS SEASON FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

On Opening Day of the Grapefruit League season, a splendid, sun-soaked day in Dunedin, Fla., the defending champion New York Yankees sent one of baseball's great warriors to the mound. Dwight Gooden, a Cy Young award winner and four-time All-Star, once one of the premier power pitchers in the game, was facing the Toronto Blue Jays. In his prime, Doc would blow away batters with high heat. Gooden's second pitch of the spring was just that — a fastball, up in the zone, to Shannon Stewart. In the split second it took for the ball to leave Gooden's hand and reach its target area, the revised strike zone enforcement was to be tested and defined.



Hideo Nomo fired a no-hitter in his debut with Boston.

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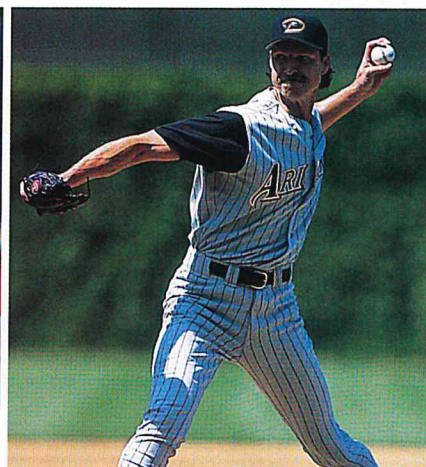
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With the added ammunition of the high strike, A.J. Burnett (top, right) hurled a no-hitter, while Randy Johnson (right) struck out 20 batters in a game.



Could Gooden get away with a fast-ball just below the letters?

Should Stewart swing or let the borderline pitch go by? Would umpire Dan Iassogna call it a ball or strike?

Stewart didn't think twice. Like a cobra he struck, unleashing a line drive over the fence. "I threw one high strike and it's a souvenir now," says Gooden, as several truths became evident: A higher strike would not be every pitcher's friend; 2001 would be no time to be passive at the plate; and umpires would have their hands full in maintaining a delicate balance between strict adherence to baseball's bylaws and tolerance of long-accepted principles.

Fast-forward five weeks.

Gooden had retired from the game and Hideo Nomo, a former Rookie of the Year like Gooden, was on the mound in Baltimore, making his Red Sox debut.

The right-hander with the hesitation delivery was masterful, painting the corners and utilizing every square inch that plate umpire Eric Cooper would give him.

"I think the strike zone helped me," says Nomo, after pitching Boston's first no-hitter since 1965 and the first in the Majors since 1999. The "new" strike zone wasn't responsible for his no-hitter, but it certainly didn't hurt. Nomo mixed in an occasional high fastball, but it was his splitter, kept down and away, that proved most unhittable. That, it can be argued, was set up by the high strike.

Nor did the new zone hinder fireballer Randy Johnson a month later when he struck out 20 Cincinnati Reds in nine innings. Featuring a devastating

slider and pinpoint control, Johnson didn't need any help on this night and says he doesn't think the higher strike zone makes much of a difference for him. "I've learned to keep the ball down in the strike zone," says Johnson, who benefits more from strikes that are called on the corners.

Through the first six weeks of the season, culminating with Florida's A.J. Burnett's no-hitter (albeit with nine walks) on May 12, baseball seemed to be getting just what it hoped it would from the redefined strike.

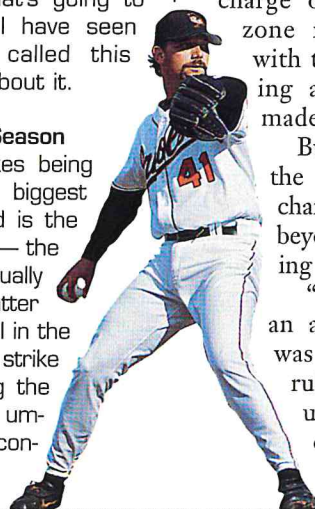
Pitcher's Point of View

Before Spring Training

As a pitcher, you have to like people talking about calling more strikes. I'm all for that. For the hanging breaking ball that's belt-high to be called a strike, I think that's going to be a good thing. That's going to make a difference. I have seen more high strikes called this spring, no question about it.

One Month into the Season

There are more strikes being called vertically. The biggest pitch I'm seeing called is the spinning breaking ball — the hanging pitch that's usually hit a long way. If the batter takes it, it's been a ball in the past. This year it's a strike and I think it's helping the pitchers. I think the umpires have been really consistent horizontally.



PAT HENTGEN, BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Batters are swinging more aggressively, umpires are calling more pitches for strikes, hitters are still swatting home runs with regularity, and games are moving along at a faster pace.

A statistical comparison of April 2001 to April 2000 shows that scoring decreased 10.6 percent this year, down from 10.75 to 9.61 runs per game. There were 75 fewer home runs hit, 13.3 percent fewer walks (from 7.82 to 6.78 per game) and 5.4 percent more strikeouts (up from 12.91 to 13.61 per game). As batting average dipped from .270 to .260, ERA also decreased from 4.93 to 4.46.

Thanks to 245 fewer hits and 359 fewer walks, the average time of a game went from 2:57 last April to 2:54 this year.

"I don't think anything that we're seeing is terribly surprising," says Sandy Alderson, Major League Baseball's executive vice president of baseball operations and one of the people in charge of implementing the strike zone revision. "We are pleased with the way things are progressing and the way umpires have made the adjustment."

But Alderson explains that in the decision to implement the change, the primary goal went beyond just the statistical balancing of the game.

"The purpose was to develop an approach to the game that was more consistent with the rule book and provide more uniformity and consistency on the part of umpires," Alderson says.

In theory, THE HIGHER STRIKE MEANS BATTERS ARE FORCED TO SWING AT MORE PITCHES, THUS PRODUCING FEWER FAVORABLE COUNTS.

New Heights

JOHN FLAHERTY,
TAMPA BAY
DEVIL RAYS



Batter's Point of View

Before Spring Training

They tell us they're going to call the high strike and tighten up the corners. I can see that maybe there will be an exaggeration of the high strike — or maybe we're just not used to seeing those pitches called for strikes, so we think it's an exaggeration. It's still my job, just like it's the pitcher's job, to figure out how much of the plate we're going to be given.

One Month into the Season

A lot of high breaking balls are being called for strikes. Those are balls we've been trained to let go because they're so high. Eventually we're going to see those balls swung at a little more aggressively. I think they're making a conscious effort to get back to the 17 inches on the plate being called, as well as calling the one up in the zone.

NOTHING NEW, REALLY

In actuality, "Strike Zone 2001" isn't new at all.

Umpires were instructed to call strikes as defined by the book. That means: "...that area over home plate, the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the kneecap." The rule book notes that a batter's stance as he prepares to swing determines the zone.

This means that pitches between the belt and the uniform letters which had traditionally been called balls suddenly became strikes in 2001. That's a lot of territory — an increase in the vertical strike zone of nearly a foot on some batters. For years, virtually any pitch above a batter's belt line had been called a ball, directly in contrast to the rule book definition.

Alderson also set out to establish more consistency among umpires. In doing so, he asked them to tighten up the edges, making sure they only called strikes on pitches that crossed the 17-inch wide plane of home plate.

"The strike zone is of particular importance," he says, "because enforcing accuracy and uniformity leads to expectations of the players, clubs and fans. I think we've seen enough of an evolution away from the definition of the strike zone that we've lost any real concept of consistency across the board."

All this comes after baseball experienced several decades of changes leading to increased offense.



From left: A power pitcher like Bartolo Colon should benefit from the high strike, while hitters like Jeff Bagwell will have to adjust.

A turning point came after the 1968 season. Bob Gibson led the National League with a microscopic 1.12 ERA. In the pitching-dominated AL, Luis Tiant led with a 1.60 ERA, Denny McLain won 31 games and Carl Yastrzemski's .301 batting average was good enough to lead the league.

Literally leveling the playing field, baseball ordered mounds lowered from 15 inches to 10 inches in height. But factor in expansion, hitter-friendly ballparks, and the combination of inexperienced pitchers and bigger, more fit hitters, and it's no wonder that since 1969, ERAs as well as batting averages have soared.

In addition, as the strike zone drifted wider, batters began crowding the plate to protect the outside corner. This led to more brushback pitches and, conse-

quently, a propensity for batters to approach the plate wearing protective padding. Equipped with this body armor, batters were brazen as ever. Something had to be done.

Major League Baseball didn't spring this season's revised standards without warning. Umpires attended clinics and met with managers in Arizona, where the higher strike had been implemented in the Arizona Fall League. Teams of umpires also visited each Major League team's Spring Training site before games began, advising players of the ins and outs of how pitches would be called.

"I'm not sure the players had a real good handle on what the strike zone was going to be in Spring Training," veteran umpire Al Clark says. "It was a learning process for them. I think

that, as in the past, a lot of players thought that it was going to be only a Spring Training guise and they really came to believe it when games actually began in April. Now I think everybody is accepting the fact that the strike zone is perhaps a little different than it has been."

"What I told players about the higher strike in Spring Training was that when they took their stride and were ready to swing, I was looking for the ball to be entirely underneath the elbow," adds umpire Mark Hirschbeck. "That's the guideline I'm trying to use for a strike."

"Some players were a little surprised at first, but when their pitcher goes to the mound and they see you call it against the other team, they seem to accept it pretty quickly. But I still think the one that has everyone staring in disbelief at times is that

Batters ARE SWINGING MORE AGGRESSIVELY, UMPs ARE CALLING MORE PITCHES FOR **strikes**, HITTERS ARE STILL SWATTING HOME RUNS WITH REGULARITY, AND GAMES ARE MOVING ALONG AT A FASTER PACE.



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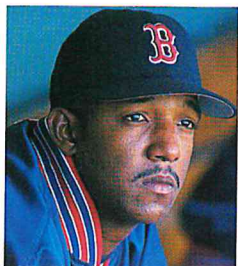
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New Heights



From left: The already-dominant Martinez, Clemens and Schilling.



high breaking ball that starts up at the elbow and drops through the entire zone."

"It's got to be difficult for a lot of these umpires who have been doing their jobs for 25 years," sympathizes Cleveland pitching coach Dick Pole. "All of a sudden we're asking them to change the pitches they've been calling their whole lives, so there's going to be an adjustment period."

WHAT IT TAKES

"There are certain guys who can pitch up there and certain guys who can't," Pole says. "Jim Palmer could pitch up there, but I can't ask Dave Burba or guys who are sinkerball pitchers to throw up there. A Bartolo Colon benefits a little bit because he's more of a power, high ball pitcher. But if we try to alter the habits of all of our pitchers to accommodate a strike zone, I think we're making a mistake."

"The strike zone has never really been that high," observes Dick Radatz, one of baseball's dominant power pitchers of the early '60s, who struck out four batters in the 1964 All-Star Game, only to lose when Johnny Callison homered on a high strike. "In most cases, it's not going to benefit the hitter if the ball's up in the zone, especially if they call it on the corner. With a great pitcher like Pedro or Roger Clemens, there's nothing a batter's going to be able to do about it. On the other hand, someone who doesn't throw that hard is going to have to get the ball in or keep it away. Otherwise he'll get smoked real good."

"If we TRY TO ALTER THE HABITS OF ALL OF OUR PITCHERS TO ACCOMMODATE A STRIKE ZONE, I THINK WE'RE MAKING A MISTAKE."

—INDIANS PITCHING COACH DICK POLE

"Anybody who's throwing 95-plus, man, you just can't catch up," says eight-time batting champ Tony Gwynn. "It gives pitchers another way to get guys out. In this era of offensive production, the hitter has to sit down and figure out how to attack this high ball."

"The advantage goes to power pitchers. Guys like Randy Johnson are tough to hit when they're down in the strike zone."

Umpire's Point of View

ANGEL HERNANDEZ

Before Spring Training

The Commissioner's Office has done a really good job of educating everybody about what the emphasis of the strike zone is. It's not just the top part of the zone — it's the entire zone. I think it's harder to call the pitch with emphasis on the top part of the zone because you're used to calling that pitch a ball. The key is to be consistent with it.

One Month into the Season

Players have accepted the strike zone as it was presented to them prior to Spring Training. I think everybody is working hard, doing their best to be consistent and from what I've seen, the strike zone has been pretty uniform from umpire to umpire. It's not easy calling that pitch, but that's what we're all working on. I think it's working out quite well.



When they get it up in the strike zone, you've got no chance. Randy and Pedro Martinez locate so well and have enough on their fastball already."

As expected, the higher strike zone has done nothing to diminish the effectiveness of the hardest throwers. Following his 20-strikeout performance, Johnson was averaging 13.6 strikeouts per nine innings compared to 10.9 for his career. Martinez had 72 strikeouts in his first 50 innings, and pitchers such as Kerry Wood and Curt Schilling were experiencing similar success.

Although his record stood at just 6-5 in mid-June, Greg Maddux, who relies more on finesse than smoke, was finding no difficulty with the alterations in the

strike zone. He had 78 strikeouts and issued just 13 walks in his first 13 starts.

"I never approached it differently this season," says Maddux. "I had no control over what the umpires were going to call."

Cincinnati closer Danny Graves similarly vowed that the revised zone would not alter his style. "The only way it would affect me is if I accidentally threw one high or hung a breaking ball and they called it a strike," he says. "As long as they don't change the low strike, I'm not going to change anything."

In the meantime, baseball was not exactly suffering from a longball shortage. Arizona's Luis Gonzalez tied a record with 13 homers in the month of April, and on May 10, Milwaukee's Jeromy Burnitz became the sixth player to blast three homers in a game. By mid-June, San Francisco's Barry Bonds had already reached 33 home runs and Boston's Manny Ramirez held a batting average in the high .300s.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

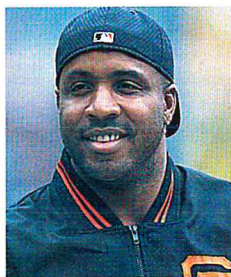
In theory, the higher strike means batters are forced to swing at more pitches, thus producing fewer favorable counts.

"You have to go up there with the idea of swinging the bat," says Cleveland outfielder Ellis Burks. "The hardest thing for me is that I've always been taught to lay off that higher pitch. Now, all of a sudden, I have to re-program my whole mindset."

Not surprisingly, other hitters are also less than thrilled with the change.

"I'm the type of guy who says if it's not broken, don't fix it," says Tampa Bay's Greg Vaughn, who led AL batters in strikeouts in April.

New Heights



From left: Barry Bonds, Luis Gonzalez and Manny Ramirez have exploded at the plate this year, despite the new strike zone.

"Sure, we had a couple of years when guys hit a lot of home runs, but what happens when Pedro, Randy Johnson, Roger Clemens and those guys have ERAs in the ones? Are we going to move the mound back?"

Says five-time batting champ Wade Boggs, who's now the hitting coach for the Devil Rays, "Up until two strikes, you don't have to swing at that pitch. And if it's a high pitch with two strikes, you can be a little more aggressive.

"When you look at the average velocity in this league, a lot of guys can't pitch up there. When they pitch 88 or 89 mph and try to throw up there, they're going to get their brains beaten in."

Aside from power pitchers, knuckleball or curveball specialists who leave pitches up in the zone can also occasionally benefit.

"I've noticed that I am getting that high strike," says Boston Red Sox right-hander Frank Castillo, "especially more on a breaking pitch. But I certainly can't live up there."

"Nobody wants to leave a curveball up there, but the one that starts at the shoulder and drops down, that's a strike now," observes Orioles catcher Brook Fordyce. "For me to get on top of that, as a hitter, I'd really have to chop wood."

"The toughest pitch is that high curveball," adds Gonzalez. "You've got to be more aggressive. I'm swinging at some of those pitches because I really don't know what they'll be called."

Some questions remain. Will offense improve in warmer weather, or as batters become more accustomed to going after higher strikes? Will pitchers be forced to throw a higher percentage of pitches over the plate as umpires come under increased scrutiny?

CALLING THE PITCH

Umpiring remains a subjective job.

"You have 50 umps which means you have 50 different strike zones," Maddux says. "No two umpires are going to see it the same way."

Ultimately, baseball would like to change that. A step in that direction came with the consolidation of the American and National Leagues.

"We are bound to enforce the rules," Alderson says. "I've always felt that a player had the right to expect consistency, accuracy and predictability. The only way to guarantee uniformity across an entire spectrum of umpires is to go back to a common definition."

If players have any complaint about the first half of 2001, it's that they don't know exactly where the strike zone will be on a given night. An informal poll of players during the first six weeks of the season indicated that most umpires had reduced the width of the strike zone but some only marginally.

"They are definitely calling the pitch that's up," Fordyce says. "But, so far, I'm also still seeing a lot of umpires call the pitch off the plate."

So, consistency remains the greatest issue surrounding the strike zone.

"To me the issue is a standardized strike zone," says Oakland pitching coach Rick Peterson.

Cardinals pitching coach Dave Duncan agrees: "They need to have the strike zone more consistent with what it's described to be. What we try to

encourage is keeping the ball at the knees. When you don't get those pitches called strikes, it makes it pretty difficult."

Many pitching coaches are concerned that umpires, focused on the new, higher strike, may be losing track of strikes down in the zone.

"I looked over the tape (from the first two games of the season) and saw 10 pitches at the knee or just below that weren't called strikes — just from our pitchers," Duncan says. "I don't think you can take away the bottom of the strike zone to help out the top."

John Hirschbeck, president of the World Umpires Association, says that he understands all the concerns.

"When I walk off the field, there are 50 people I've tried to satisfy — the 25 players on each team," Hirschbeck says. "The one thing I've always tried to do is be consistent. That's what they expect at the Major League level."

Major League Baseball isn't sitting back. In addition to monitoring its umpires, it has teamed up with QuesTec Inc. to install Pitch Trax measurement systems at six ballparks. The video system, employing the same technology used to monitor planes and missiles, enables umpires to review and receive feedback on their ball-strike calls.

The system pinpoints pitches within two-fifths of an inch. Umpires will be able to review their performance on laptop computers after a game.

Ralph Nelson, baseball's vice president of umpiring, says the system will help umpires rather than evaluate them.

"For me, it's kind of weird," says Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell. "It's almost like they're trying to take the human element out of the game. Before, umpires had a different zone, but as long as guys knew what it was, it didn't bother me. Now what? Next, are we going to go to the tennis system, where it beeps if it's a strike?"

In the end, however, the game of baseball remains essentially the same.

All-Star performers are still All-Star performers.

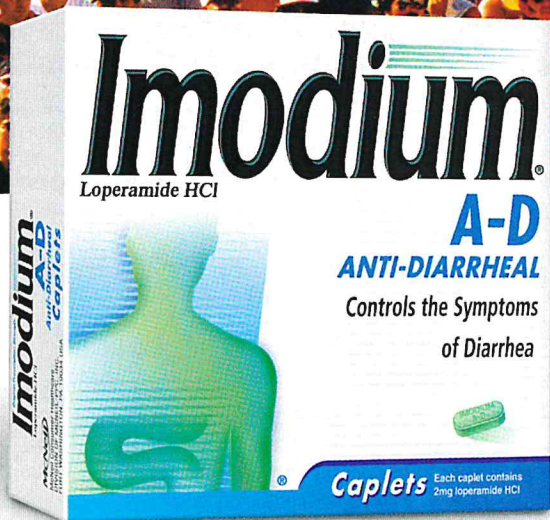
"Whatever they want to do with the strike zone," says Pedro Martinez, "is not going to affect my game." ♦

Seth Livingstone writes for USA Today Baseball Weekly.

The Effect

MAJOR LEAGUE COMPARISON OF APRIL 2000 VS. APRIL 2001		
	2000	2001
Runs Per Game	10.75	9.61
Home Runs Per Game	2.56	2.34
Walks Per Game	7.82	6.78
Strikeouts Per Game	12.91	13.61
Earned Run Average	4.93	4.46
Batting Average	.270	.260
Time of 9-inning Games	2:57	2:54

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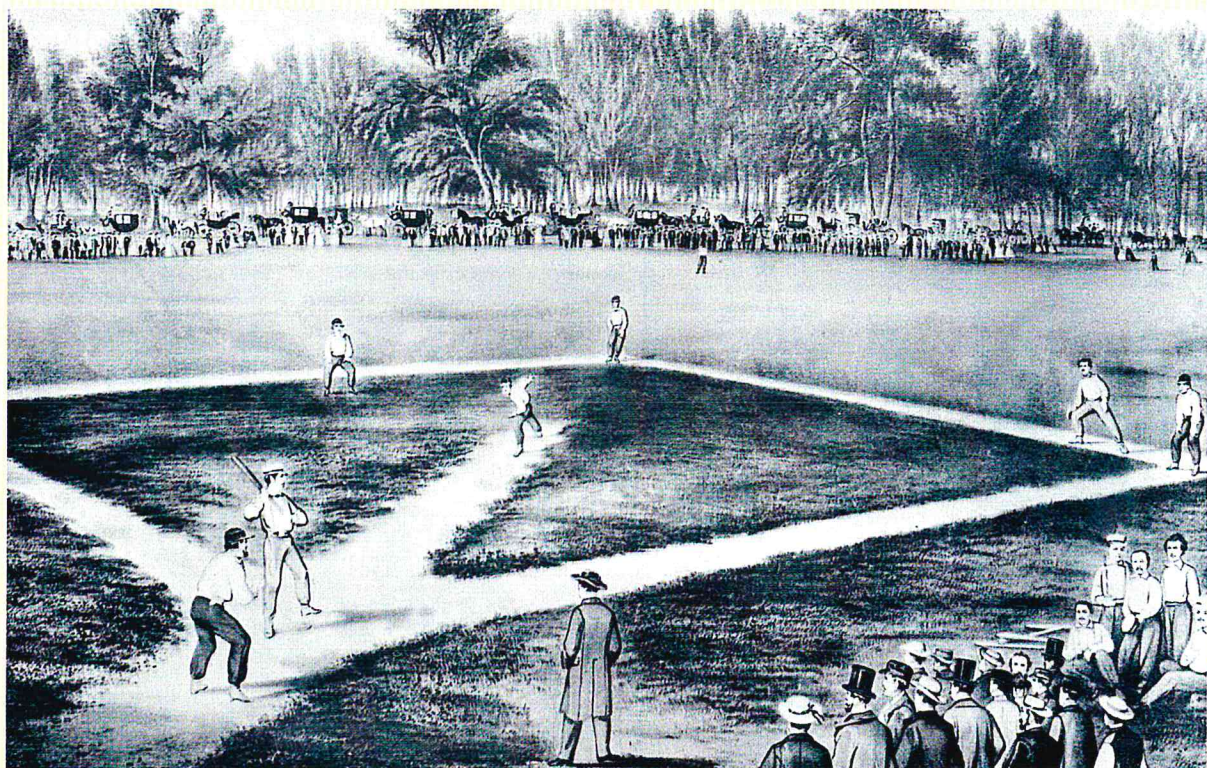
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ROOTS

BASEBALL'S INVENTION

REMAINS AS MUCH OF A MYSTERY AS *THE* ORIGIN OF

FIRE



The light bulb had its Edison, the printing press its Gutenberg. The Wright brothers built an airplane that flew, and Eli Whitney brought us the cotton gin. For all these landmark inventions, history has been able to ascribe a definitive point of origin. • Not so with baseball. While the quest for baseball's inventor has produced its own litany of candidates, including Abner Doubleday, Alexander Cartwright and Daniel Adams, no single figure has emerged to claim the throne as baseball's founding father. • In the words of historian Harold Seymour, attempts to pinpoint baseball's true originator have proven as difficult as "trying to locate the discoverer of fire."

ROUNDERS

Baseball is, at its heart, a game of simplicity — pitchers and batters, bats and balls — but it is also a game that derives its unique character from specific rules: three strikes make an out; three outs make an inning; nine innings make a game. While bat and ball games date back as far as ancient Egypt, the game whose rules bear the most similarity to baseball is rounders, an English children's bat game dating back to the 18th century. Featuring four bases laid out in a diamond, along with such familiar baseball rules as "three strikes, you're out," rounders may have been the closest thing to baseball before there was baseball. In fact, rule books published in the early 19th century provide an alternate name for rounders — "Base, or Goal, Ball."

HENRY CHADWICK

This similarity was not lost on Hall of Famer Henry Chadwick, who as the game's first significant reporter (he invented the box score), has himself been labeled "The Father of Baseball." Chadwick believed that the English child's rounders became the American's baseball, and he devoted much of his writing to promoting his theory. By the close of the 19th century, writers and fans alike accepted the rounders argument.

But there were differences between the two games as well. In rounders, for instance, the number of players on each side was not specified, and runners could be put out by throwing the ball at them. These differences served as fuel for those cynical of Chadwick's theory.

ALBERT SPALDING

Enter Albert Spalding, who as one of the game's great early pitchers and later as its chief promoter (through the sporting goods business that still bears his name) ranks as one of baseball's most important figures. But Spalding was also an ardent patriot, and he was openly contemptuous of Chadwick's rounders theory. Spalding (who once wrote "Baseball is War")



Clockwise from left: Albert Spalding, Henry Chadwick and Alexander Cartwright all left their mark on the game.

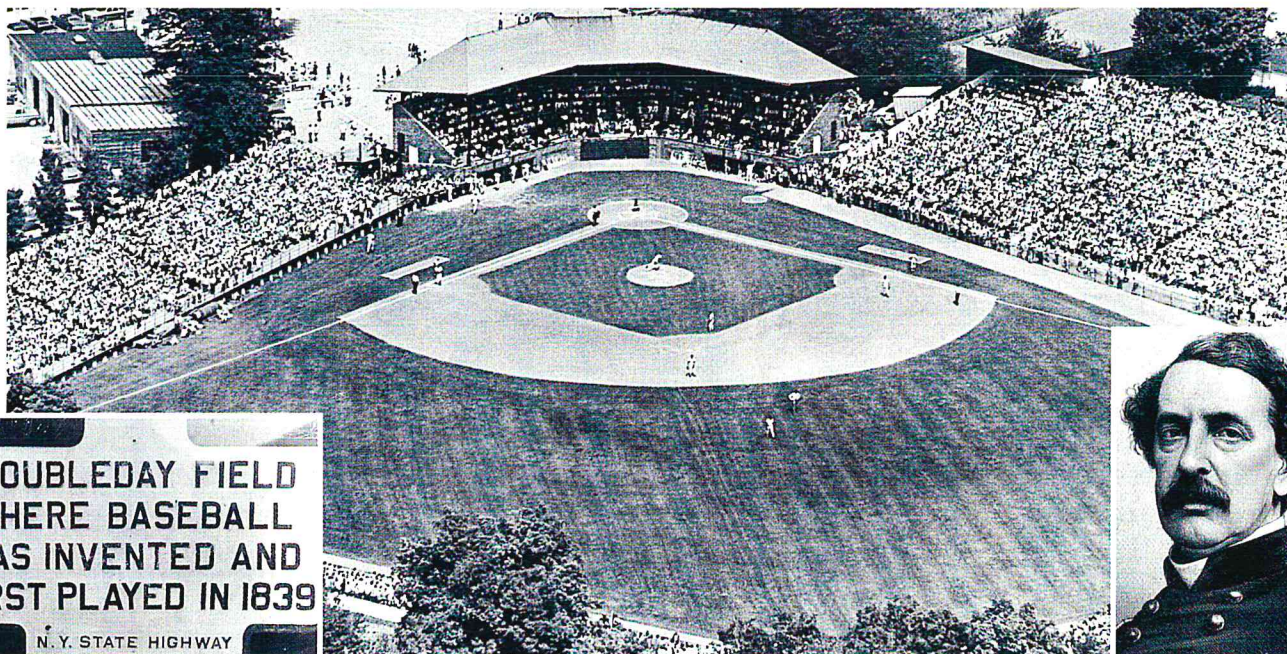
did not particularly care for the idea that the national pastime may have descended from a children's game (played by the English, no less). He denied any connection between the two games, insisting that any similarities be treated "simply as coincidence." As writer Bryan Di Salvatore put it, "If rounders looked like a duck, walked like a duck, and quacked like a duck, then Spalding called it a partridge."

ABNER DOUBLEDAY

Spalding was convinced that baseball was purely American, and in 1905 he set out to prove it by forming a special committee to study the issue. After two years of "fact gathering," the commission came back with its findings. "According to the best evidence obtainable to date," the commission reported, "baseball was invented by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1839." The commission based its finding solely on the testimony of Abner Graves, a one-time resident of Cooperstown. In a letter to the commission, Graves recalled a day in 1839 when Doubleday improved the ball-playing of some local boys in a cow pasture by placing four bases on the field, and limiting the number of players on each side to 11 (to prevent the boys from running into each other when they chased fly balls). In addition, Graves claimed, Doubleday coined this new game "base ball."

In direct contradiction to that claim, research has shown that the term "baseball" had been used in various forms as far back as the middle of the 18th century, and it had first appeared in the United States by 1823. The rest of Graves' story has not stood up under close scrutiny, either. In 1839, records show that Doubleday was not in Cooperstown — he was a cadet at West Point, presumably learning how to fire cannons rather than fastballs — and would have had to have been AWOL to be in Cooperstown. Such an unsoldierly stunt seems unlikely for Doubleday, who would go on to become a major general in the U.S. Army.

ROOTS



**DOUBLEDAY FIELD
WHERE BASEBALL
WAS INVENTED AND
FIRST PLAYED IN 1839**

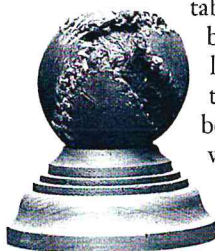
N. Y. STATE HIGHWAY

In 1907, a commission headed by Albert Spalding declared that Abner Doubleday (inset, lower right) invented baseball in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1839.

While Doubleday may not have started the game of baseball, he has been credited with starting something else — the Civil War. Reportedly, Doubleday fired the first Union shot in defense of Fort Sumter in April 1861; and at Gettysburg in 1863, he briefly commanded the Union troops. But Doubleday never once mentioned baseball in his writings prior to his death in 1893, nor did he mention playing the game in his childhood recollections. All of this evidence that suggests that Doubleday did not invent baseball has led writer Donald Honig to the belief that Doubleday “didn’t know a baseball from a kumquat.”

HOBOKEN AND MADISON SQUARE

Upon dismissing the Cooperstown claim, many historians have turned their attention 200 miles south, to Hoboken, N.J. and the New York Knickerbockers, whose experimentation with the game in the 1840s forms an important link between rounders and modern baseball. The Knickerbockers were a collection of young men living in Manhattan who began meeting informally to play ball as early as 1842. In truth, the Knickerbockers were more of a social club than an athletic club, more known for their exploits at the banquet table than on the baseball diamond. But they loved playing ball — in the words of one member, sometimes until “it was too dark to see.”



An early ball known as “The Doubleday Ball.”

Initially, they played their games at Madison Square, and later in the Murray Hill District. But they found the big city lacking in satisfactory recreation space. So, beginning in 1845, they started doing something quite familiar to many city workers of today — they took the ferry over to New Jersey, where there would be no difficulty finding open fields. They eventually settled upon Hoboken, at the Elysian Fields, a popular park overlooking the Hudson River.

ALEXANDER CARTWRIGHT

It was in Hoboken, in the summer and fall of 1845, that the Knickerbockers practiced their game. As their membership grew, the club determined it would draft a written set of rules for its brand of baseball. For this task, the club turned to one of its most active members, a young bank clerk and volunteer fireman named Alexander Cartwright. The rules that Cartwright drafted were adopted by the club on Sept. 23, 1845 at McCarty’s Hotel in Hoboken, and, according to baseball author James DiClerico, who wrote *The Jersey Game*, “would change the game forever.” These new rules established foul lines, three strikes as an out, three outs as an inning, and a regular batting order. In addition, the practice of “soaking,” or retiring a runner by throwing the ball at him, was abolished.

For months, the Knickerbockers met twice every week to practice the game outlined in Cartwright’s rules. In this case, practice did not make perfect. When the Knickerbockers finally played

Famous Firsts in Baseball History

1875. According to Albert Spalding, a St. Louis first baseman named Charles Waite becomes the first fielder to don a glove.

June 12, 1880. Worcester’s Lee Richmond hurls the first perfect game in baseball history. Five days later, Providence’s John Montgomery Ward tosses the second. The NL will not see another perfect game for 84 years.

1884. Moses Fleetwood Walker and his brother, Weldy, become the first African-American players in Major League history when they take the field for Toledo of the American Association. They will also be the last black ballplayers until Jackie Robinson.

Oct. 1, 1903. The Boston Pilgrims and Pittsburgh Pirates meet in the first game of the first modern World Series. Pittsburgh wins the game, 7-3, beating Boston ace Cy Young, but the Pilgrims (later known as the Red Sox) go on to win the Series.

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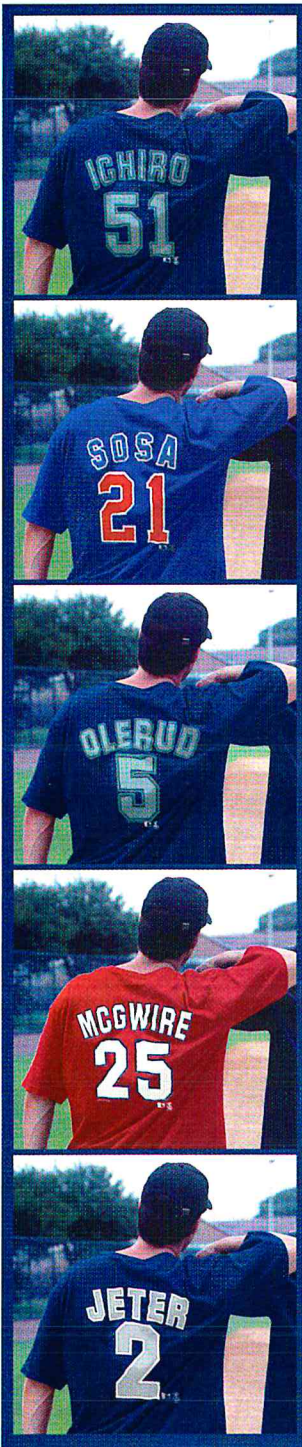
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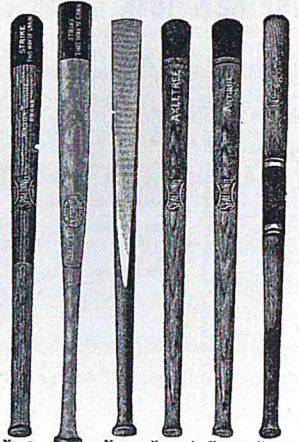
ROOTS

FRANK LESLIE'S
ILLUSTRATED
NEWSPAPER



From left: Media interest began growing in the new game; the New York Knickerbockers played the "first-ever" game in Hoboken, N.J.; eventual sporting goods mogul Albert Spalding made baseball bats.

SPALDING'S
Trade-Mark Bats.



CHICAGO, A. G. SPALDING & BROS., NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA.

another team, the New York Club, at the Elysian Fields on June 19, 1846, in what has been called the first baseball game in history, they were completely destroyed. The game mercifully ended after four innings, with the Knickerbockers trailing, 23-1. Cartwright himself served as umpire for the contest, and dispensed what may be the first fine in baseball history — six cents to Mr. Davis for swearing.

Regardless of their shortcomings on the field, Harold Seymour has written that Cartwright and the Knickerbockers are due much of the credit for modern baseball, as they "blazed a path others were to follow." Perhaps most tellingly, it was Alexander Cartwright, and not Abner Doubleday, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame when the museum opened on the site where Doubleday supposedly invented the game.

Yet other historians have cast doubt on Cartwright's importance. As publisher John Thorn has pointed out, Cartwright did not do the three main things attributed to him on his plaque in Cooperstown. He did not set the bases 90 feet apart — the 1845 rules call only for a distance of 42 "paces" between home and second, and first and third. He did not set nine players to each side — the Knickerbocker rules make no mention of how many players were to play for each team. And he did not set the length of each game to nine innings — according to the 1845 rules, the game was over when the first team scored 21 "aces," or runs.

DANIEL ADAMS

According to Thorn, the man most responsible for improving the game was not Cartwright, but another Knickerbockers player named Daniel Adams, whom Thorn has dubbed "The True Father of Baseball."

In an 1896 interview, the 81-year-old Adams claimed credit for many of baseball's modern rules. In 1845 Adams was a

young doctor living in Manhattan when he joined the Knickerbockers shortly after they began playing at the Elysian Fields. Beginning in 1848, Adams chaired the club's rules committee, and immediately began tinkering with the Cartwright model by introducing the shortstop position. But his biggest contribution may have come in January 1857, when the Knickerbockers met with several other amateur clubs to form the National Association of Base Ball Players. At that meeting, Adams was named chairman of the rules committee, which came back with several important changes. Dismissing the 42 pace standard as "rather vague," the committee set the distance between bases at 90 feet. The committee also determined that the winner of each game would be defined by the team ahead after nine full innings, rather than the first team to score 21 runs.

Famous Firsts in Baseball History

May 24, 1935. The Cincinnati Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 2-1, at Crosley Field, in the first night game in Major League Baseball history.

April 15, 1947. Jackie Robinson becomes the first African-American Major Leaguer of the 20th century when he takes the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He will go on to win the first Rookie of the Year award.

April 6, 1973. Ron Blomberg of the New York Yankees becomes the first designated hitter in baseball history. In his first at-bat, he draws a bases-loaded walk.

June 12, 1997. In the first Interleague (a regular-season contest between the National and American League) game in baseball history, the San Francisco Giants of the NL beat the Texas Rangers of the AL, 4-3.

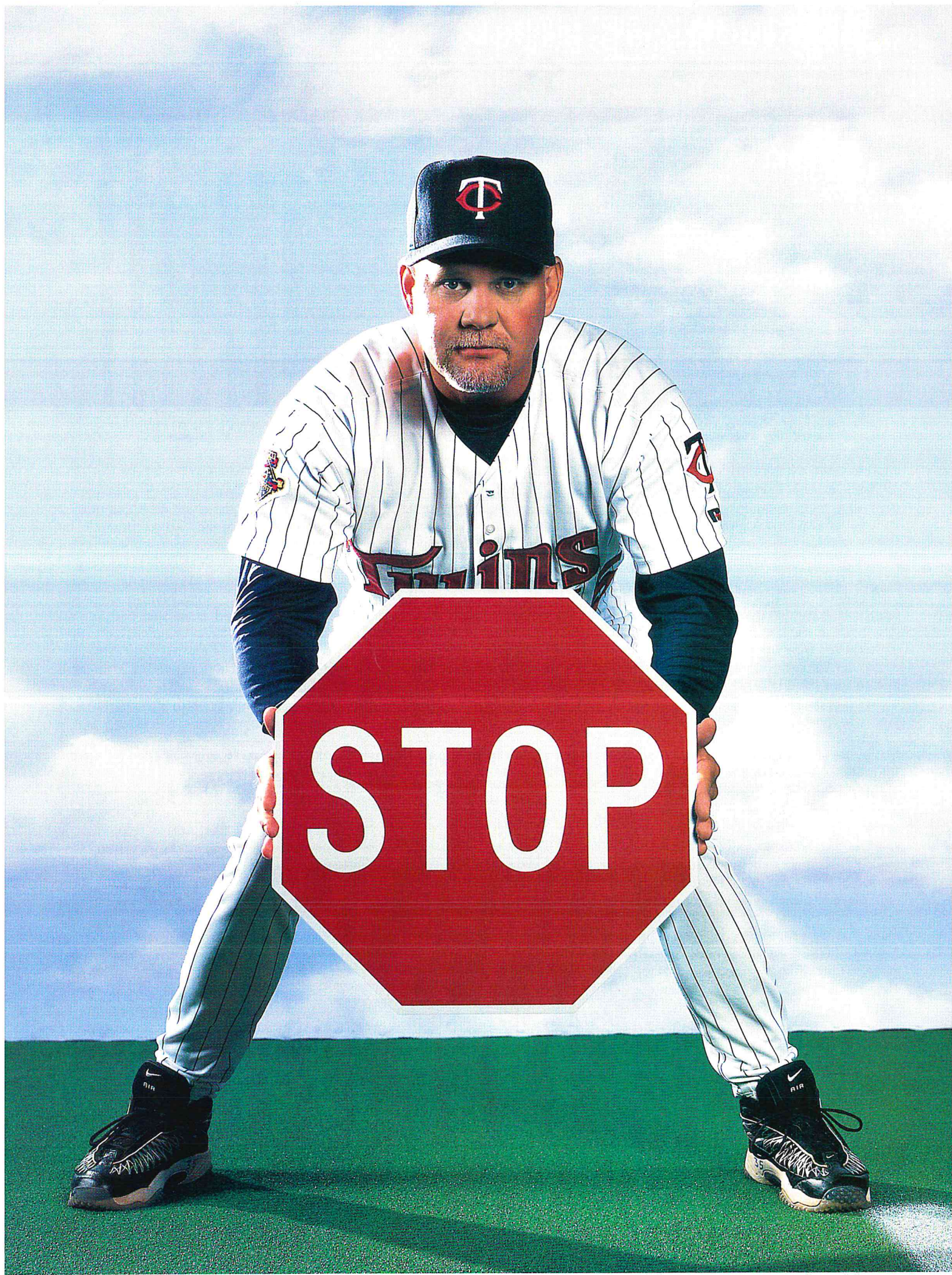
EVOLUTION OVER TIME

While the rules that emerged from the 1857 convention contained a vital blueprint for baseball's future development, it is clear that an important part of that development lay in the years to come. Four balls wouldn't constitute a walk until 1889. The pitcher's mound wouldn't be set at 60 feet, 6 inches until 1893, and foul balls wouldn't count as strikes until 1901.

Attempts to highlight one individual as baseball's inventor by revealing the improvements he made to the game have also exposed the improvements he did not make, and thus brought to light the contributions of others. But the fact that the question has engendered so much thought and so much heated debate for so long, stands as testament to baseball's enduring hold on our imagination. As Thorn puts it, "Success has many fathers, failure none." ♦

David Jones is a freelance writer and baseball researcher based in New Jersey.

ALL PHOTOS: NELA/MLB PHOTOS



BY PAUL DICKSON

SIGN LANGUAGE

**COACHES FLASH HUNDREDS OF
SILENT SIGNALS IN EVERY GAME.**

BEFORE A BASEBALL GAME CAN BEGIN, TWO SIGNS HAVE TO BE GIVEN: THE plate umpire's command to "Play Ball" and the sign from the catcher to the pitcher ordering the type and location of the first pitch. More often than not, these are finger signs delivered from the catcher's inner thigh. If the pitcher is uneasy with the pitch, he'll "shake it off," vetoing it with a shake of his head or by some other gesture. The catcher gives a new sign ... or does he? Maybe the "shake off" was a decoy signal to the leadoff batter intended to give him the feeling that there is uncertainty as to how he should be pitched or that the battery is off to a bad start. The first ball has not been pitched but the head game may already be underway.

Over the course of the next nine innings, hundreds of silent signs and signals will be given and received. Many will be false signals meant to mislead, others will carry routine instructions and a few may spell out the difference between winning and losing. The art of giving, receiving and protecting signs is central to the game of baseball. They are the glue that holds a baseball team together in the game, and what allows a ballclub to function as a

team both offensively and defensively. During the course of any game, messages dart busily between managers and coaches, between coaches and hitters, between infielders and outfielders, between base runners and hitters, between catchers and pitchers. At any given moment, four or five messages may be crisscrossing an infield — twice that many if a squeeze bunt is being called for.

Without these signs and signals — without some means of communicating with players in the field — a manager's influence over game strategy would be sharply limited. Catchers would become the only receivers, while pitchers, hitters and base runners would be largely on their own, and errors and miscues would proliferate. Offensive play would lose its elements of cohesion and carefully calculated risks such as all of those fascinating elements of strategy and surprise — steal attempts, bunts and squeeze plays, the hit and run, the run and hit and the rare double-steal — would become ill-timed ad-libs. By the same token, the defense would be unable to set itself for different game situations and pitchers and catchers would be unable to communicate. The umpiring crew —

SIGN LANGUAGE

the third team on the field — uses overt signs to make calls and less public ones to communicate with each other.

This is serious business to the men on the field, but can look silly to the fan watching the game with all the tugs, pats and crosses that go into giving signs. Teams routinely try to steal each other's signs and signals which means that signals are encoded — embedded in a string of false signals created to throw the other team off. Most likely the third base coach, who moves around like a man fighting off a swarm of mosquitoes, is disguising the real sign amid a flurry of bogus ones. The coach may have no message for the batter, or he might be pantomiming while the real signal comes from the dugout or the first base coach. But much

is illusion in this game within a game. Teams work to keep their signs as confusing as possible. Jerry Narron, third base coach for the Texas Rangers, keeps his signs simple but has a different set for each player. Others have different ways of keeping signals from being picked off. Casey Stengel was once asked what would happen if he found out that another team decoded his systems. "I ain't gonna change our signs. I'm just gonna change what they mean."

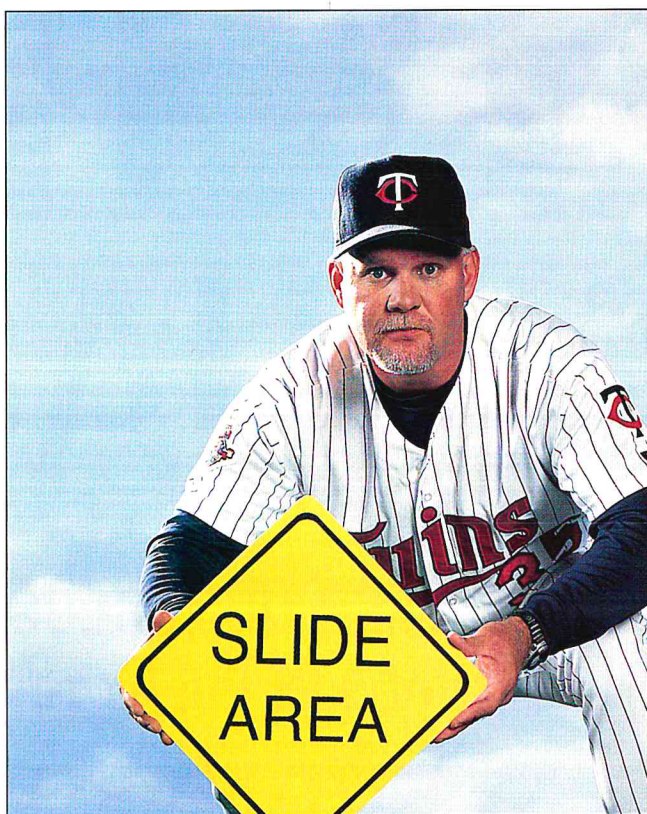
Typically, a set of signs from the third base coach will include a series of decoys — dekes to those on the field — an "indicator" and a "hot sign." The indicator says the message is coming, while the hot sign is the action signaled; such as bunt or steal. The indicator, which may be something like touching the lettering on the jersey, may be first, next to last or in the middle. The players know the indicator before the game starts — although if the third base coach thinks it's being stolen, he may change it.

For instance, the indicator may be putting the left hand on the right knee and the hot sign for a bunt may be a cap tap. These are the only signs that matter and will be embedded inside a series of tummy rubs, arm crossings, nose flicks, forearm taps, sleeve tugs and just about anything else that a coach can think of. What makes a good third base coach is how well he can disguise the indicator. Former pitching coach and manager Ray Miller once observed, "Sometimes it looks like five guys trying to bring a jet onto an aircraft carrier. Some are signs. Some are decoys, and it's fascinating to sit there and watch the stuff flying all over the place."

Umpires have developed their own unique set of signs and signals to convey the game situation, the count, even anticipated on-field rotations to each other. Many umpire signs are public and meant to give both players and fans a quick, unequivocal call: the palms-down arm sweep to say that the runner is safe, or pointing the right hand index finger in the air to indicate that the infield fly rule is in play. Others are for the other umpires. For instance, if a manager storms out of the dugout to dispute a particular call, the umpire in the firing line may give a "help" sign — commonly placing two hands on his waist — and another umpire will step in between the umpire and manager.

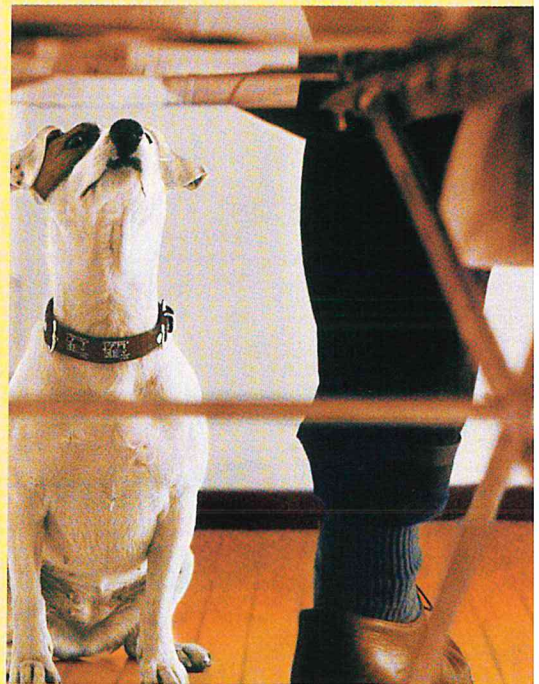
"Signs are more important today than ever before," says Ed Ott, bullpen coach for the Detroit Tigers. There are even more signals today than when Ott came up in 1974 as a catcher with the Pirates. "These days you have to be a graduate of M.I.T. to get all the signals," he adds. Taught and drilled at every level of the game above Little League, today's Major League rookies are fluent in the art of non-verbal communication by the time they come up. Teams work hard to keep their signals straight and strong. Billy Hatcher, bench coach for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, says that they are of such importance that he reviews them with his players at least once per week.

The covert signals of military operations are the precursor of baseball signs. The British Royal Navy first used coded signs and signals to win the Battle of Trafalger 64 years before the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional baseball team to use coded baseball signs and signals to win a baseball game. Two decades later, Larry Corcoran became the first big league pitcher to work out a system of signals with his catcher — reportedly Corcoran's system involved his catcher moving a big wad of tobacco to different sides of his mouth. The art really came into its own with the original National League Baltimore Orioles of the late 1890s and Manager Ned Hanlon, who changed the nature of baseball from a simple game of pitch, hit and catch to a game of strategy and surprise. Hanlon used coded signals to order bunts, double steals, squeezes and hit-and-run plays.



"SOMETIMES GIVING SIGNALS LOOKS LIKE FIVE GUYS TRYING TO BRING A JET ONTO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER." —RAY MILLER

- a. Anything that falls on the floor
- b. Anything that falls on the floor
- c. Anything that falls on the floor
- d. Other



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The Other
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SIGN LANGUAGE

On the other side of giving signs is the concerted effort to take or steal them. A *Wall Street Journal* story earlier this year resurrected the topic when the paper reported that the 1951 New York Giants stole signs for 10 weeks leading up to Bobby Thomson's pennant-winning home run. The homer has gone down in baseball lore as "The Miracle of Coogan's Bluff," and was chosen as the greatest moment in baseball history by *The Sporting News*, and the second-greatest sports moment of the 20th century by *Sports Illustrated*. Outfielder Monte Irvin, catcher Sal Yvars and pitcher Al Gettel admitted stealing signs as the Giants overcame a 13-1/2 game deficit. Thomson denied that he took the sign on his famous homer, but there is little question about how the Giants got to be in a position for Thomson to hit "The Shot Heard 'round the World." *The Journal* reported that the Giants used a telescope in the clubhouse — situated in center field at the Polo Grounds — to steal the catcher's signs and relay them via an electronic buzzer to the bullpen in left-center field and the dugout.

This report brings up an important distinction between the totally legal "cerebral" stealing done on the field when a man on second tries to read the catcher's signal or when a man in the dugout tries to "pick" the opposition's bunt sign, and that form of stealing which uses walkie talkies, television cameras and other devious devices or when a "civilian" — anyone not in uniform — gets into the act. The former is an established part of the game — the latter open to much debate and censure.

But sign stealing has always been part of the game. Baseball historians have traced it back as far as 1876, the year the National League was founded, when the Hartford club was accused of stealing signals. Since then, a number of players, coaches and managers have established solid reputations for their abilities in this area. Baseball lore is loaded with many stories of sign-stealing prowess. Charlie Dressen, by all accounts, was one of the masters and loved to brag about his abilities. As manager of the 1953 National League All-Stars, the Dodger manager was supposedly asked in a pregame meeting what signs he would use: "Forget it men. I'll give each of you the signals used on your own team."

Paul Molitor — considered one of the best modern sign stealers — now a coach for the Minnesota Twins, considers the art "part of the game" — that is, unless you have a television camera in center field. "If you are able to steal a bunt sign, a hit-and-run sign, get an out and win an inning, it will make a difference and you can win a game that you otherwise might have lost," he says.

The fan in the stands will probably never be able to fully decode a game, but understanding signs will add to the appreciation of baseball as a game of silent strategy. As a Giants coach, Wes Westrum once said, "Baseball is like church — many attend but few understand." One level of understanding comes when one realizes that managers, coaches

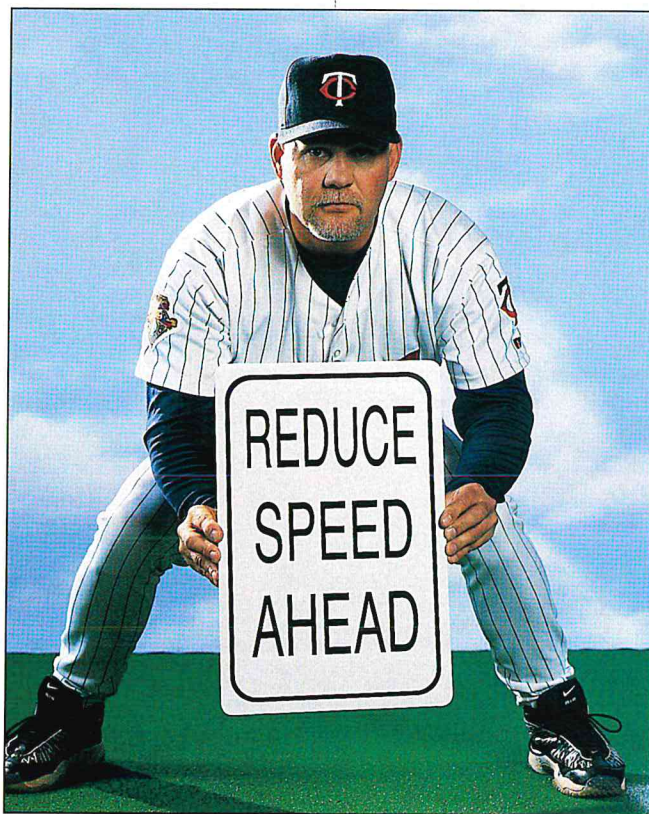
and players watch a game with an entirely different set of eyes than the fan. They are watching the game within the game which is often played before the ball goes into play.

Consider the case of a successful squeeze bunt. What the fan sees is an offensive play in which the man on third sprints with the pitch and the batter bunts the ball into fair territory, placing it so that the fielder cannot get the man out at the plate. Looking at this play in terms of preparation, a lot of signs have to be transmitted. The manager decides to attempt the squeeze. He or his dugout coach signals the third base coach, who signals the man on base and the batter. The man at third signals back to the third base coach that he understands and the batter acknowledges that he has the sign. The defense may suspect the play which offers

several options, ranging from a pitchout to moving the infield in and trying for the play at the plate — any of which requires more signs. An umpire suspecting a bunt play will signal the rest of the crew that a close play may be at hand. The catcher signals the pitcher, who acknowledges the pitch.

A well-prepared team will understand the signs and execute the play to perfection — unless of course, the signs were a decoy, meant to trick the defense into moving out of position as the batter then lets loose, and swings for the fences. With signs as complex as today's, you can never know for sure. ♦

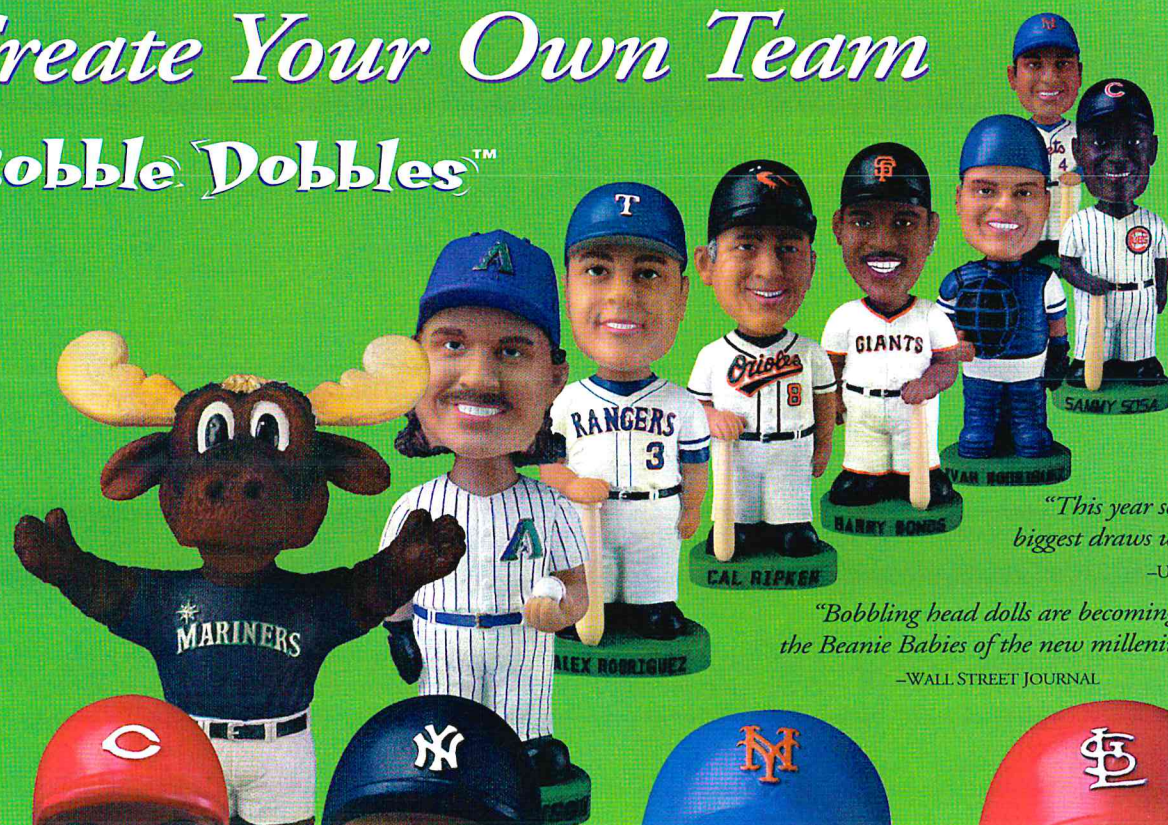
Paul Dickson, author of The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary and The Joy of Keeping Score, is working on a book about signs and signals.



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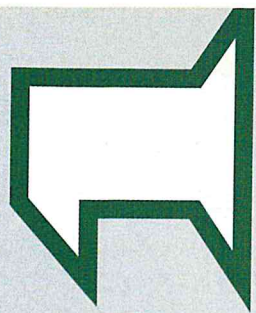
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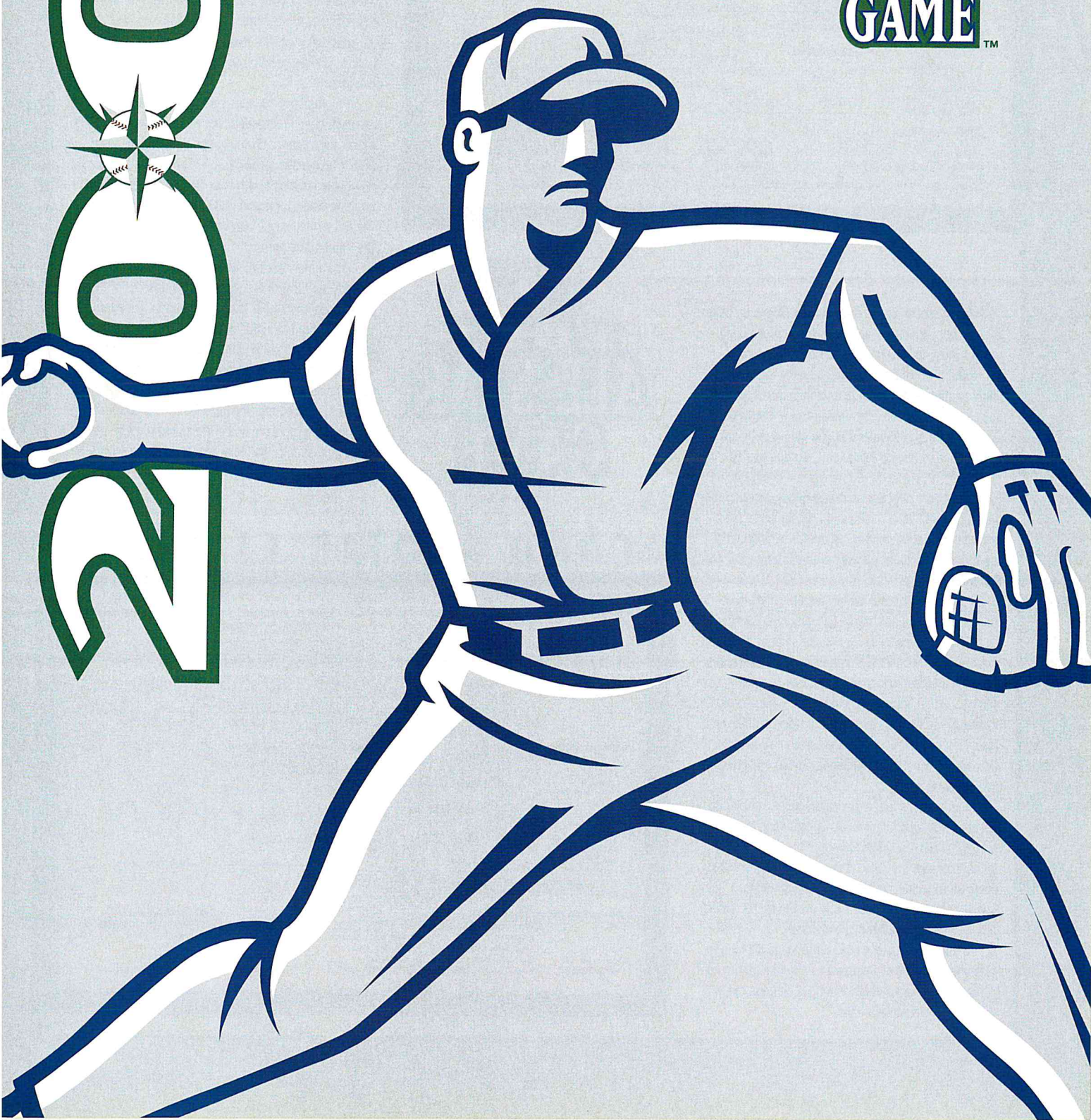
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SCORECARD SECTION



HOW TO SCORE

SAMPLE SCORESHEET

Number Players As Follows:
 1 - Pitcher
 2 - Catcher
 3 - First Baseman
 4 - Second Baseman
 5 - Third Baseman
 6 - Shortstop
 7 - Left Fielder
 8 - Center Fielder
 9 - Right Fielder
 DH - Designated Hitter
 (Used exclusively in the American League)

Symbols For Plays:

Single —
 Double =
 Triple ≡
 Home Run ≡≡
 Sacrifice — SH

Walk — BB
 Strikeout — K
 Balk — BK
 Foul Fly — F
 Fielder's Choice — FC

Hit By Pitch — HP
 Wild Pitch — WP
 Passed Ball — PB
 Stolen Base — SB
 Force Out — FO

Double Play — DP
 Error — E
 Sacrifice Fly — SF

Additional Symbols:
 IBB — Intentional Walk
 X — Called out on strikes
 L — Line Drive
 B — Bunt
 U — Unassisted

Team	1	2
Center Fielder	3 2 8	4 — 8
Shortstop	6-4 BB 6	6-4 BB 6
1st Baseman	3 5 FC K	3 5 FC K
3rd Baseman	5 5 FC K	5 5 FC K
Right Fielder	SB 2 4	SB 2 4
Left Fielder	6-2 — SB	6-2 — SB
Designated Hitter	FC 4	FC 4
2nd Baseman	4 4	4 4
Catcher	4 4	4 4
Totals	R H 3 4	0 1

INNING 1
 singled, advanced to 2nd on next batter's walk, took 3rd on fielder's choice, scored on No. 4 batter's double
 walked, later forced out, shortstop to 2nd base
 reached on fielder's choice, advanced to 3rd on next batter's double, scored on No. 5 batter's single
 doubled, scored on No. 5 batter's single
 singled, advanced to 2nd on next batter's single, stole 3rd base, thrown out on grounder, shortstop to catcher
 singled, stole 2nd base
 reached 1st on fielder's choice
 popped out to 2nd base
 doubled

INNING 2
 filed out to center field
 popped out to shortstop
 struck out swinging



Different fans have different methods of keeping a scorecard, and many use their own notations, but here's a simple method:

First fill in the starting line-up. When the game begins, start in the column corresponding to the correct inning and go to the box next to the name of the hitter who is at the plate. If the hitter makes an out, write down how he was put out according to the legend below. If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows that the shortstop threw him out at first base. The notation for a fly to left, for example, would be "7."

If the batter gets a hit, pencil in the hit according to which base he reached. The corners of the box represent the bases, with the lower-right corner being first. If he singles, pencil in a "-" in the lower right. If he doubles, pencil in a "=" in the upper right, and so on. If he walks, pencil in "BB" in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.

If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the number five hitter drives in two runs with a single, mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" inside the boxes of the runners who score.

At the end of each inning, total the hits and runs for that inning only. At the end of the game you'll be able to add the innings total to arrive at the game score.

Distintos fanáticos tienen diferentes métodos de llevar la anotación, además muchos usan sus propios signos o símbolos. Pero hay un método más sencillo.

Primero escriba la alineación inicial. Cuando el juego comience, anote en la columna correspondiente a la entrada correcta y vaya a el encasillado al lado del nombre del bateador que está en el plato. Si el bateador es puesto fuera (out), escriba que fue out, de acuerdo a la clave que sigue a continuación. Si el bateador conecta arrastrado al campo corto, por ejemplo, anote "6-3," señalando que el corto tiró a primera base para retirarlo de out. El símbolo utilizado para anotar un elevado al jardín izquierdo, por ejemplo, sería "7."

Si el bateador batea un indiscutible, anótelo de acuerdo a la base alcanzada. Las esquinas del cuadrado representan las bases, la esquina inferior derecha sería la primera base. Si él conecta un sencillo, anote "-" en el lado derecho inferior. Si conecta doblete, escriba "=" en el lado superior derecho, y así sucesivamente. Si recibe una base por bola, escriba "BB" en el lado derecho inferior. Según los corredores vayan avanzando, escriba el símbolo apropiado en la respectiva esquina.

Si un corredor anota, ponga un círculo en la base del cuadrado, dentro ponga el símbolo de la jugada y/o el jugador que empujó la carrera. Por ejemplo, si el quinto bateador empujó dos carreras con un sencillo, anote su sencillo en el lado derecho inferior del cuadrado y dibuje un círculo con el número "5" en las casillas de los corredores que anotaron.

Al finalizar cada entrada, sume todos los incogibles y carreras de esa entrada solamente. Al final del juego usted podrá sumar los totales de cada entrada, llegando a la anotación final.



CÓMO ANOTAR EL JUEGO

MUESTRA DE UNA LIBRETA DE ANOTACIÓN

Numero Los Peloteros de la Siguiente Manera:

1 - Lanzador
 2 - Receptor
 3 - Primera Base
 4 - Segunda Base
 5 - Tercera Base
 6 - Campo Corto
 7 - Jardinero Izquierdo
 8 - Jardinero Central
 9 - Jardinero Derecho
 DH - Bateador Designado
 (Usado exclusivamente en los parques de la Liga Americana)

Símbolos Para Anotar Jugadas:

Sencillo —
 Doble =
 Triple ≡
 Cuadrangular ≡≡
 Sacrificio — SAC

Base por Bola — BB
 Ponche — P
 Movimiento Ilegal — MI
 Elevado de Faul — F
 Jugada de Selección — JS

Pelotazo — PD
 Lanzamiento Errático — LE
 Pasbol — PB
 Base Robada — BR
 Jugada Forzada — JF

Doble Jugada — D
 Error — E
 Elevado de Sacrificio — ES

Símbolos Adicionales:

BB1 — Base por Bola Intencional
 PC — Ponchete Cantado
 L — Línea De Cañonazo
 TB — Toque de Bola
 JSA — Jugada sin Asistencia

Equipo	1	2
Jardinero Central	3 2 8	4 — 8
Campo Corto	6-4 BB 6	6-4 BB 6
Primera Base	3 5 JS P	3 5 JS P
Tercera Base	5 5 JS P	5 5 JS P
Jardinero Derecho	BR 2 4	BR 2 4
Jardinero Izquierdo	6-2 — BR	6-2 — BR
Bateador Designado	JS 4	JS 4
Segunda Base	4 4	4 4
Receptor	4 4	4 4
Totales	R H 3 4	0 1

PRIMERA ENTRADA

Conectó sencillo, avanzó a segunda base por bola recibida por el siguiente bateador, adelantó a tercera por jugada de selección anotó por doble del bateador No. 4

Recibió base por bola, más tarde fue forzado en la segunda base, de campo corto a el defensor del segundo saco

Llegó a primera, por jugada de selección, avanzó a tercera base por doblete del próximo bateador, anotó por sencillo del bateador No. 5

Pegó doble, anotó por sencillo del bateador No. 5

Conectó sencillo, avanzó a segunda por incógnita del bateador siguiente, se robó la tercera base, fue retirado en el plato. Del paracorto al receptor

Sencillo, se robó la segunda base

Llegó a primera base por jugada de selección

Out, en elevado a segunda


SEGUNDA ENTRADA

Out, en elevado al jardinero central

Out, en elevado al jardinero corto

Se ponchó tirándole al tercer strike

Bateo Doblete


[illegible]The logo for the 2001 All-Star Game. It features the MLB logo on the left, which is a white silhouette of a batter inside a blue and red diamond. To the right of the logo, the text "2001" is written in a large, bold, white font. Below "2001", the words "ALL-STAR" and "GAME" are stacked vertically in a large, bold, white font. A small, stylized star is positioned between "ALL-STAR" and "GAME". The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern.[illegible]



SAFECO FIELD, SEATTLE

[illegible]

2B	
3B	
HR	
SB	
S	
SF	

The logo for the 2001 All-Star Game. It features the MLB logo (a white silhouette of a batter on a red and blue background) to the right of the text "2001 ALL-STAR GAME". The text is in a stylized, bold, white font with a blue outline, set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of baseballs.

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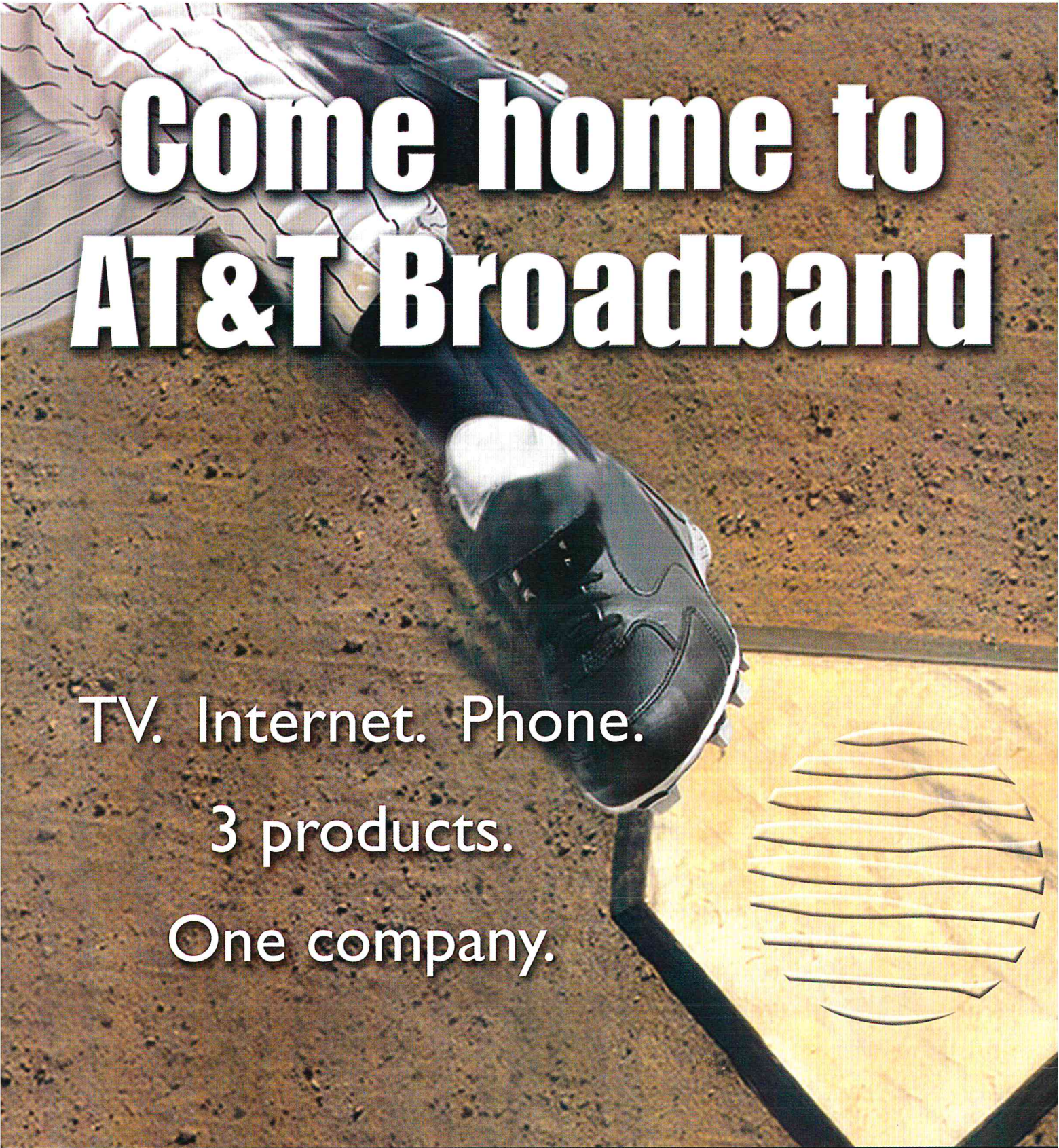
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TIFFANY & Co.

NATIONAL LEAGUE



All statistics are through July 1, 2001

MANAGER



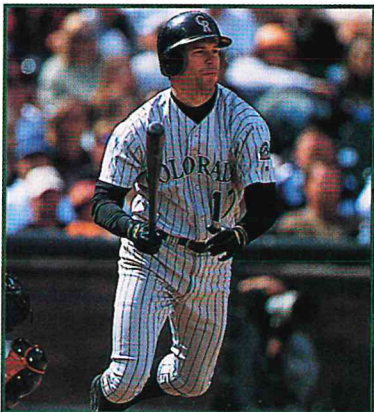
MLB PHOTOS

BOBBY VALENTINE
MANAGER
NEW YORK METS

In 2000, Valentine, who is managing his first All-Star Game, led the Mets to the World Series. His winning percentage ranks second all time among Mets managers.

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

TODD HELTON
FIRST BASE
COLORADO ROCKIES



BECKMILB PHOTOS

His offensive output has improved across the board in each of his first three seasons. After the numbers that this two-time All-Star put up last season, Helton raised his production expectations for this year.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
296	77	96	25	82	.324

JEFF KENT
SECOND BASE
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



MANCINI/MLB PHOTOS

The 2000 National League MVP is making his third trip to the All-Star Game. Kent is on pace for his fifth consecutive 20-home run, 100-RBI season, the most productive stretch by a second baseman in recent history.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
296	43	87	11	58	.294

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL UMPIRES



DANA DeMUTH
HOME PLATE



DALE SCOTT
FIRST BASE



JIM JOYCE
SECOND BASE



JERRY LAYNE
THIRD BASE



RON KULPA
LEFT FIELD



TONY RANDAZZO
RIGHT FIELD

CHIPPER JONES
THIRD BASE
ATLANTA BRAVES



PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

This five-time All-Star continues to put up impressive numbers as he tries to keep the Braves on track. The switch-hitting Jones has averaged 33 home runs and 110 RBI over the past five seasons.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
283	58	86	21	59	.304

RICH AURILIA
SHORTSTOP
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

This first-time All-Star can hit for power and average. He's led all NL shortstops in home runs the past two seasons with 42 in that time span, and by late June was among the league leaders at the plate, batting in the mid-.300s.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
306	50	107	12	33	.350



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HONORARY CO-CAPTAINS



MLB PHOTOS

**RALPH
BRANCA**



MLB PHOTOS

**BOBBY
THOMSON**

Fifty years ago, Thomson hit the "Shot Heard 'round the World" off Branca, a three-run, ninth-inning blast that gave the Giants a 5-4 win over the Dodgers to win the NL pennant.



MLB PHOTOS

DUSTY BAKER
MANAGER
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Baker is one of two managers to win three Manager of the Year awards and is looking to guide the Giants to their second straight division title.

COACHES



MLB PHOTOS

BRUCE BOCHY
MANAGER
SAN DIEGO PADRES

Bochy, San Diego's all-time wins leader, led the Padres to the 1998 World Series before they fell to eventual champion New York.

TRAINERS



COURTESY HOUSTON ASTROS

**DAVE
LABOSSIERE**
HOUSTON
ASTROS



COURTESY SAN DIEGO PADRES

**TODD
HUTCHESON**
SAN DIEGO
PADRES

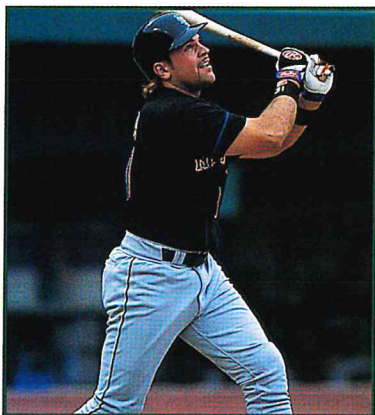
NATIONAL LEAGUE



All statistics are through July 1, 2001

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

MIKE PIAZZA
CATCHER
NEW YORK METS



KEEL/MLB PHOTOS

Piazza continues to produce numbers never before seen from the catcher position. It's this offensive domination that has earned the Mets' slugger his ninth trip to the Midsummer Classic in nine seasons.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
268	40	72	20	45	.269

SAMMY SOSA
OUTFIELD
CHICAGO CUBS



VESEL/MLB PHOTOS

After leading the National League with 50 home runs in 2000, this five-time All-Star has continued to take pitchers deep at an extraordinary rate, and has catapulted the Cubs into contention in the NL Central.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
281	62	85	26	75	.302

BARRY BONDS
OUTFIELD
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



MANGINI/MLB PHOTOS

This 10-time All-Star hit his 500th career home run in April and is about to crack the top 10 all-time homer list. At the midway point, Bonds is on pace to shatter McGwire's single-season home run record of 70.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
234	63	72	39	71	.308

LUIS GONZALEZ
OUTFIELD
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS



MANGINI/MLB PHOTOS

He might not appear huge, but this two-time All-Star put on a massive display of power by hitting 13 home runs in April, tying a record. Gonzalez has been among the NL leaders in homers and average during the first half.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
309	72	110	32	78	.356

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

PITCHING CATEGORY LEADERS

All statistics are through July 1, 2001

CURT SCHILLING

PITCHER, ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

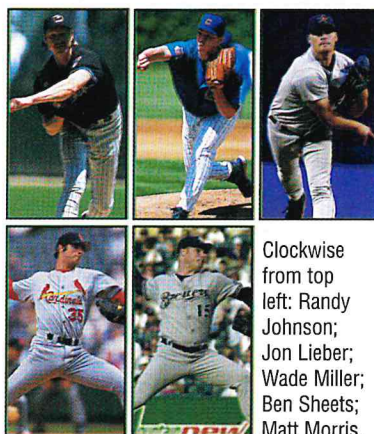


The first 12-game winner in the Majors, Schilling has combined with Randy Johnson to form a tough 1-2 punch. He has been among the league leaders in wins and ERA while showing unerring control.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	129.1	12	2	2.99	0

ALL TIED WITH 10 WINS



Clockwise from top left: Randy Johnson; Jon Lieber; Wade Miller; Ben Sheets; Matt Morris.

GREG MADDUX

PITCHER, ATLANTA BRAVES



Maddux continues to be one of the most consistent pitchers in Major League history. He's headed for his 14th straight season of at least 15 wins, an accomplishment only surpassed by the legendary Cy Young.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	121	9	5	2.38	0

JOHN BURKETT

PITCHER, ATLANTA BRAVES



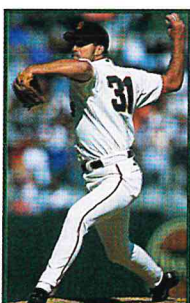
Perhaps the forgotten starter on a staff that includes names like Maddux, Smoltz and Glavine, Burkett has continued to hold his own, posting impressive ERA numbers in his second season with Atlanta.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
18	120.2	6	6	2.39	0

ROBB NEN

PITCHER, SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



Nen has saved at least 35 games in each of the last five seasons and has never blown three consecutive save opportunities in his nine-year career. He has made the most relief appearances by an NL pitcher since 1995.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
41	38.2	2	2	3.49	25

JOSE MESA

PITCHER, PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



Mesa has resurrected his career and stabilized the Phillies' bullpen at the same time. Once thought to have lost his overpowering fastball, Mesa is proving that he has regained his form as a premier closer.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
35	35	1	1	3.34	21

JEFF SHAW

PITCHER, LOS ANGELES DODGERS



Always among the league leaders in saves, Shaw has helped keep the Dodgers alive in the competitive National League West. He has been a closer for the past five years, racking up 160 saves in that span.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
39	38	3	2	3.32	21

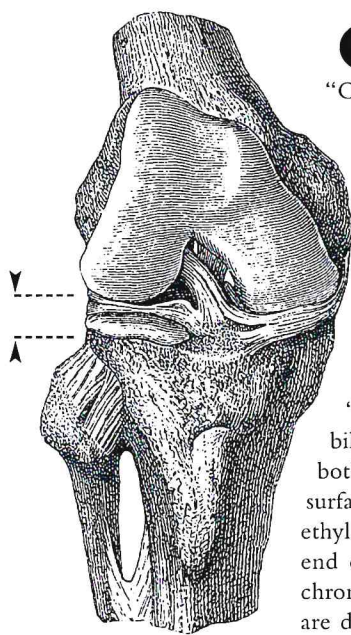
Bold: category leader.

10-GAME WINNERS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MANGIN/MLB PHOTOS; VESELY/MLB PHOTOS; AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS (2); SALLAZ/MLB PHOTOS

If a simultaneous bilateral knee replacement seems drastic,

IMAGINE WALKING ON KNEES FILLED WITH BROKEN GLASS.

Harry "Trees" Taylor gave his knees to basketball. As a former college star and Harlem Globetrotter, he did what it took to play at the highest level of sport. Years of relentless practice had finally caught up with him. This is the story of Harry's care.



A healthy adult knee
(arrows indicate
thickness of cartilage).

1 THE DIAGNOSIS

"Over the years, Harry's knees had deteriorated to the point where they had begun to hinder his active lifestyle. Both joints were bone on bone. None of the lubricating cartilage that assures smooth joint operation was there. I sent him to Dr. Robinson for a consult."

—Dr. Lesley Althouse, Harry's Internist/Geriatrician

2 THE SURGERY

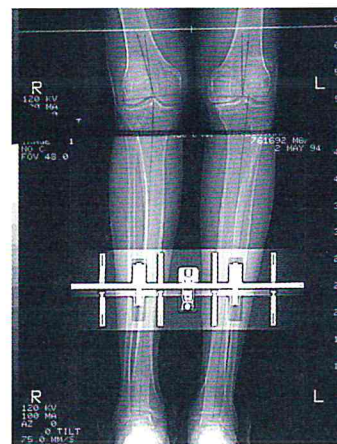
"It was clear that Mr. Taylor was a candidate for bilateral joint replacement. That's where we literally replace both knees simultaneously. First, we remove the worn-out surface at the top of the tibia and resurface it with a polyethylene plastic insert. Then we remove the surface of the end of the femur and resurface it with a polished cobalt chrome layer which glides on the plastic insert. Both knees are done in about an hour. I did the procedure on Harry's right knee and Dr. Green did the left."

—Dr. Raymond P. Robinson, Harry's Orthopedic Surgeon

3 THE RECOVERY

"The benefits of simultaneous bilateral knee replacement are that it lessens the patient's time under anesthesia and allows them to recover from one surgery rather than two. In Harry's case, the operation was very successful. He was standing on his new knees the next day."

—Dr. Thomas Green, Harry's Orthopedic Surgeon



Pre-operative X-ray of knee deterioration.

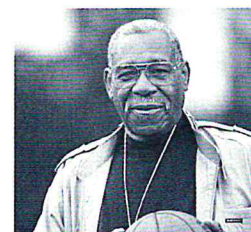


Post-operative film of bilateral knee replacement.

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Harry "Trees" Taylor

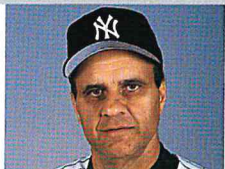
TEAM VIRGINIA MASON
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AMERICAN LEAGUE



All statistics are through July 1, 2001

MANAGER



MLB PHOTOS

JOE TORRE
MANAGER
NEW YORK YANKEES

Torre is managing his fourth All-Star Game for the American League on the heels of guiding the Yankees to their third straight World Series title last season. As a player, he was selected to nine All-Star Games.

JOHN OLERUD
FIRST BASE
SEATTLE MARINERS



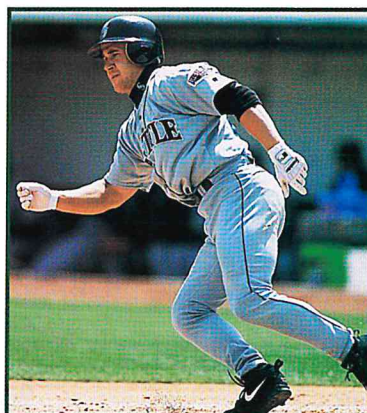
MLB PHOTOS

Last year's AL Gold Glove winner at first base, this two-time All-Star has been an offensive force in the middle of the Mariners' lineup in the first half. He's almost always among league leaders in batting average.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
283	51	90	10	55	.318

BRET BOONE
SECOND BASE
SEATTLE MARINERS



MANNNMLB PHOTOS

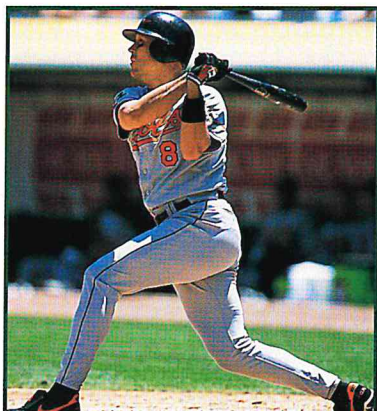
This two-time All-Star's offensive production is a big reason the Mariners are in full-throttle. Boone has been among the league leaders in RBI in the first half and could shatter his career high by season's end.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
311	59	102	21	80	.328

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

CAL RIPKEN JR.
THIRD BASE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES



MANNNMLB PHOTOS

The 1991 All-Star Game MVP has given fans plenty of memories. This will be Ripken's final All-Star Game, as he will retire at the end of the season, finishing with 19 Midsummer Classic selections and 17 as a starter.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
211	21	48	4	25	.227

ALEX RODRIGUEZ
SHORTSTOP
TEXAS RANGERS



MANNNMLB PHOTOS

Signing a big contract hasn't put any pressure on this five-time All-Star, who continues to amass big numbers. Always among the league leaders in offense, A-Rod has continued to be a pitcher's nightmare.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
312	70	99	23	67	.317

IVAN RODRIGUEZ
CATCHER
TEXAS RANGERS



KEENMLB PHOTOS

This 10-time All-Star has kept a decade-long stranglehold on the AL's starting spot at catcher, thanks to his stellar play and overwhelming fan support. Last season Pudge was the top vote-getter in the Majors.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
258	41	74	16	41	.287



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HONORARY CAPTAIN



ROSATOMLA PHOTOS

KIRBY PUCKETT

A 10-time All-Star, Puckett, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, was the MVP of the 1993 All-Star Game. He hit a homer and had 2 RBI in a 9-3 AL win.



MLB PHOTOS

TONY MUSER MANAGER KANSAS CITY ROYALS

Muser, in his fifth season at the helm in Kansas City, guided the Royals to a 77-85 record last year, a 13-game improvement from 1999.

COACHES



MLB PHOTOS

LOU PINIELLA MANAGER SEATTLE MARINERS

Piniella, coaching in his second straight Midsummer Classic, has led the Mariners to the best record in the Majors at the break.

TRAINERS



COURTESY SEATTLE MARINERS

RICK GRIFFIN SEATTLE MARINERS



COURTESY SEATTLE MARINERS

TOM NEWBERG SEATTLE MARINERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE



TOP VOTE-GETTERS

All statistics are through July 1, 2001

EDGAR MARTINEZ DESIGNATED HITTER SEATTLE MARINERS



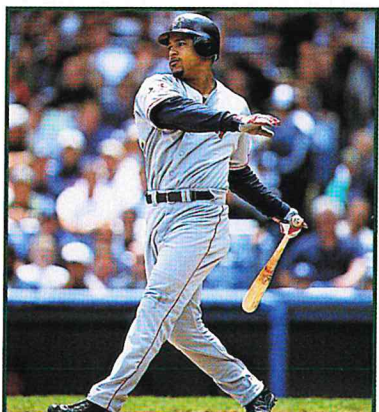
MAAGNMLA PHOTOS

This six-time All-Star continues to be a model of consistency whenever he steps to the plate. Martinez looks to hit over .300 for the seventh consecutive season and the 10th time in his stellar 12-year career.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
264	48	81	12	63	.307

MANNY RAMIREZ OUTFIELD BOSTON RED SOX



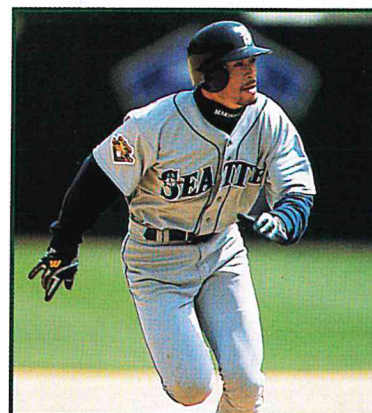
PILINGMLA PHOTOS

A change of scenery didn't hurt this five-time All-Star's performance. Ramirez has continued to be an RBI machine and flirted with .400 earlier in the year as the productive man in the middle of Boston's lineup.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
302	54	99	24	78	.328

ICHIRO SUZUKI OUTFIELD SEATTLE MARINERS



MAAGNMLA PHOTOS

A Japanese import who wears his first name on the back of his jersey, Ichiro is making his first-ever appearance at the All-Star Game. His numbers so far have proved what Seattle knew all along — this guy can play.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
359	70	125	3	36	.348

JUAN GONZALEZ OUTFIELD CLEVELAND INDIANS



REDMLA PHOTOS

This three-time All-Star has returned to MVP form while patrolling right field for the Indians. Gonzalez has kept the Cleveland offense from skipping a beat after losing fellow All-Star outfielder Manny Ramirez.

2001 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
292	57	100	21	73	.342



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AMERICAN LEAGUE

PITCHING CATEGORY LEADERS

All statistics are through July 1, 2001



ROGER CLEMENS
PITCHER
NEW YORK YANKEES



LETTERMAN PHOTOS

This five-time Cy Young award winner continues to move up the all-time win and strikeout charts. He was the first AL starter to notch 11 wins and is among the league leaders in ERA and strikeouts.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	117.2	11	1	3.59	0

JOE MAYS
PITCHER
MINNESOTA TWINS



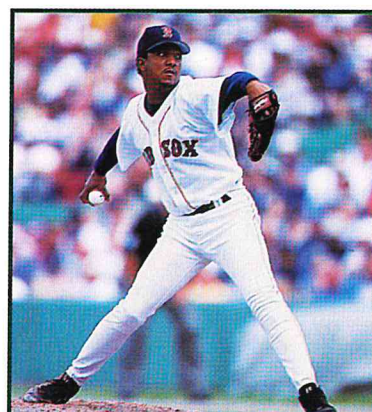
VESELY WALB PHOTOS

In his third Major League season, Mays has already surpassed his career high in wins and, barring injury, will set career highs in all pitching categories, as he helps lead Minnesota through an amazing season.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	115.2	10	5	3.03	0

PEDRO MARTINEZ
PITCHER
BOSTON RED SOX



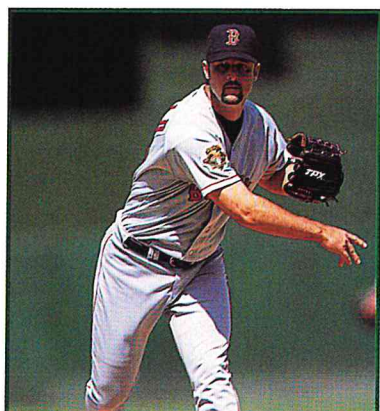
PILINGSALB PHOTOS

Martinez has continued to dominate on the mound. The possibility of winning the AL pitching Triple Crown and his fourth Cy Young award seems within reach, as he's among league leaders in wins, Ks and ERA.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
15	103.2	7	2	2.26	0

TIM WAKEFIELD
PITCHER
BOSTON RED SOX



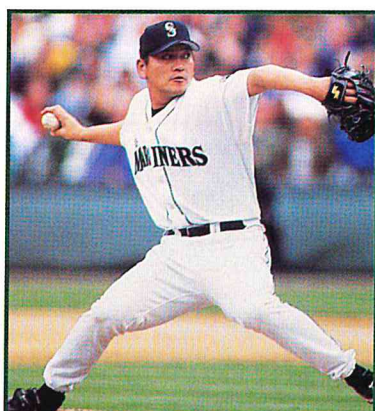
ZAGARISALB PHOTOS

One of the most versatile pitchers in all of baseball, Wakefield was again called upon to step into the starting rotation. The knuckleballer has responded, mowing down batters at a torrid rate with his unusual pitch.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
22	87	5	2	2.38	2

KAZUHIRO SASAKI
PITCHER
SEATTLE MARINERS



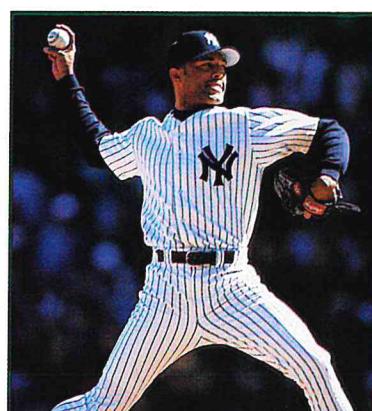
LETTERMAN PHOTOS

The 2000 AL Rookie of the Year set a Seattle team record with 37 saves. Earlier this season, Sasaki recorded 13 saves in April, a new Major League record, and he's on pace to have another record year.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
39	36.2	0	3	3.19	28

MARIANO RIVERA
PITCHER
NEW YORK YANKEES




PILINGSALB PHOTOS

One of the best closers in the game, Rivera continues to shut down opponents and close out games with frightening precision. His dominance helped power the Yankees to their three straight world championships.

2001 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
37	42.2	2	3	2.32	26

Bold: category leader.



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BASEBALL

IN SEATTLE

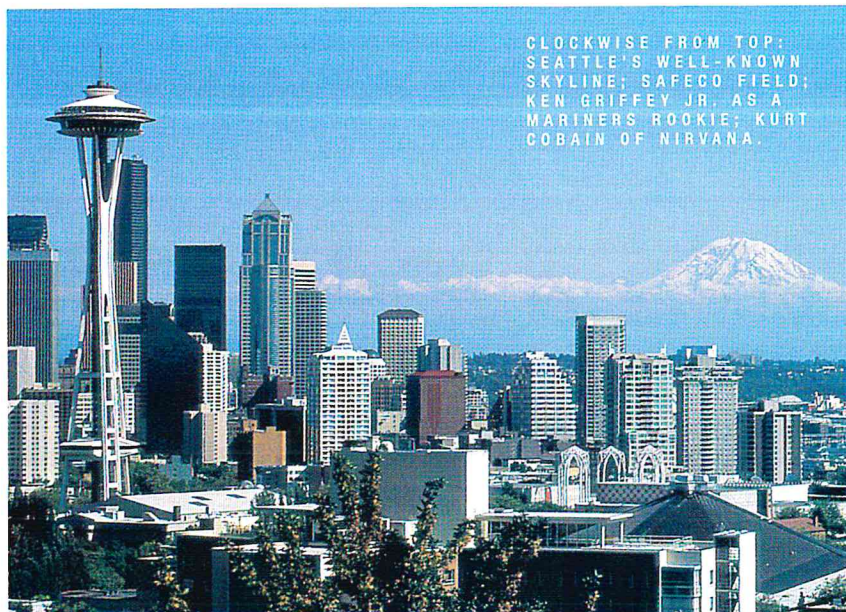
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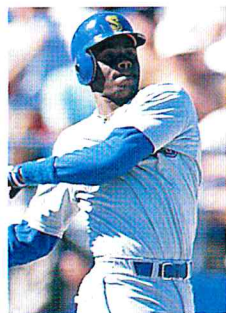
THE EMERALD CITY

Baseball, music and a roster of now-familiar sites have afforded Seattle **prime real estate** on the national map.

THE LAST TIME SEATTLE HOSTED an All-Star Game, the monolithic Kingdome was a state-of-the-art sports facility, Ken Griffey Jr. was a nine-year-old Cincinnati Little Leaguer, and nirvana was having a Seattle Major League Baseball franchise in the middle of its third season. After the expansion Pilots left town following their first and only season in 1969, many wondered whether baseball could ever make it here. The same thing could have been said for Seattle's music scene, once a sorrowful bevy of nightclub dives and heavy metal posers. Then along came Griffey in 1989, followed by the breakthrough of Kurt Cobain's Nirvana two years later, and just before the clock struck 2000, Safeco Field, a baseball palace where blue sky is seen and real grass is green. Suddenly Seattle was more than a rainy port city. It was a baseball town, a music mecca, a popular travel destination — and a fitting location for the 72nd All-Star Game.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
SEATTLE'S WELL-KNOWN
SKYLINE; SAFECO FIELD;
KEN GRIFFEY JR. AS A
MARINERS ROOKIE; KURT
COBAIN OF NIRVANA.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NICK GUNDERSON/SEATTLE KINGS COUNTY NEWS BUREAU; BEN VAN HOUTEN; PILINGMLB PHOTOS; JOE HUGHES/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES.COM



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HUTCHINSON; PCL CHAMPS HOLIDAY CARD; SICKS' STADIUM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.

BASEBALL: A Diamond in the Rough

The current generation of baseball fans might not remember a Seattle baseball team before the Mariners drafted Griffey, but the Emerald City actually sports a baseball history rich in tradition and steeped in local folklore.

■ IN THE BEGINNING: SEATTLE RAINIERS (1938-65)

When Seattle businessman Emil Sick purchased the Pacific Coast League's Seattle Indians in 1937, his first order was to change the nickname to Rainiers — after his beer company and the famous mountain south of town. The second was to build a permanent baseball home called Sicks' Stadium.

Constructed for \$125,000, the 11,000-seat ballpark fit snugly into a hillside at Rainier and McLellan. Mount Rainier towered over right field like a giant snow cone, and penny-pinching baseball revelers watched for nothing from Tightwad Hill, the grassy knoll beyond left field.

Local 19-year-old phenom Fred Hutchinson won 25 games that first year, and the Rainiers quickly became Seattle's heroes. They would win three straight PCL championships (1940 to '42) before falling on hard times during World War II. Sick hired Rogers Hornsby to manage in 1951, and the Hall of Famer led the Rainiers to their first league title in nine years.

They won another championship in 1955. But after the Dodgers and Giants moved west, PCL teams became Triple-A affiliates for Major League teams. In 1965, Seattle began an affiliation with California and, as the Seattle Angels, won a final PCL title in 1966.

■ ONE AND OUT: SEATTLE PILOTS (1969)

Voters in 1967 approved the construction of a Seattle sports complex, and the AL granted expansion franchises to Seattle and Kansas City — both of whom would begin play in 1969, three years before the Kingdome's scheduled opening.

Sicks' Stadium capacity was expanded to 18,000 by Opening Night, April 11, but only 17,000 saw starting pitcher Diego Segui, who was selected in the expansion draft, beat the White Sox. (Seattle also drafted an unknown outfielder named Louis Piniella. Unimpressed by his Spring Training, the team traded Piniella to Kansas City, where he was named AL Rookie of the Year.)

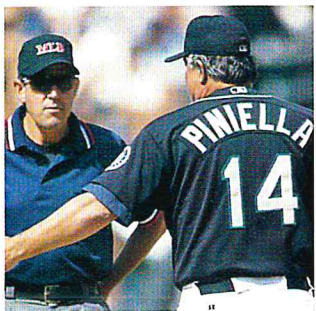
The Pilots' best player was third baseman Tommy Harper, whose 73 stolen bases led the Majors. But by the All-Star break, Seattle trailed first-place Minnesota by 18 games.

Along the way, 30-year-old relief pitcher Jim Bouton — the former 20-game winner and Yankees' World Series hero — chronicled the 1969 season for what would become his now-classic book, *Ball Four*.

THE '69 PILOTS BROCHURE COVER.



THE EMERALD CITY



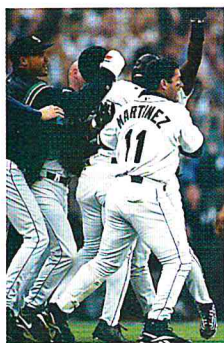
FROM LEFT: LOU PINIELLA; GRIFFEY LEADS SEATTLE TO A DIVISION SERIES TITLE IN 1995; SAFECO FIELD.

The Pilots finished 64-98, last in the West, drawing just 677,944 fans. Baseball decided it couldn't risk two more seasons waiting for the Kingdome, and on April 7, 1970, the Pilots took the field at Milwaukee County Stadium — as the Milwaukee Brewers.

■ GRADUAL CLIMB: SEATTLE MARINERS (1977-PRESENT)

Eight years after the Pilots' departure, Seattle and Toronto joined the AL, and an investment group led by actor Danny Kaye paid the Mariners' \$6.5 million entry tag. On April 6, 1977, Seattle finally christened the Kingdome with a 7-0 loss to California. The Mariners' starting pitcher? Diego Segui.

THE 2000 ALCS CHAMPIONS.



From 1977 to '93, under nine separate managers including Darrel Johnson, Maury Wills, Rene Lachemann and Dick Williams, the Mariners never won more than 78 games or finished higher than fourth in a six-team West.

The Mariners' talent level rose in the '80s, however, led by first baseman Alvin Davis, second baseman Harold Reynolds, pitcher Mark Langston and outfielders Phil

Bradley and Danny Tartabull. In 1986, the team finished 67-95, but landed Griffey. Finally in 1991, Seattle finished above .500 under third-year Manager Jim Lefebvre.

Led by a core group of players in the early '90s — Griffey, outfielder Jay Buhner, third baseman Edgar Martinez and pitcher Randy Johnson — Seattle had the table set. It only needed a chef. Enter Manager Lou Piniella in 1993, followed by a talented Miami high school short-stop named Alex Rodriguez.

For the next eight seasons, the Mariners won two American League West crowns and a Wild Card, twice coming within two games of a World Series (losing the ALCS to Cleveland in 1995 and New York in 2000). In the process they would lose their three best players — Johnson, Griffey and Rodriguez — in three successive seasons.

But along the way they would capture a city's heart, build an outdoor ballpark, and earn a spot among baseball's top franchises in the early 21st century.

SODO MOJO

The catchy Mariners motto has caught fire among fans, but what exactly does it mean? Mojo is a magic charm or magical power, and SoDo is short for South of Downtown, the neighborhood adjacent to Safeco Field. (Some Seattle fans, affectionately remembering the Kingdome, also contend that it stands for South of the Dome.) Together, SoDo Mojo connotes the magic of watching Mariners baseball.

■ MONUMENTAL MARINERS MOMENTS

JUNE 1987: Seattle used the first choice in the 1987 draft to select an 18-year-old Cincinnati outfielder, more recognized then as the son of former Reds outfielder Ken Griffey.

OCTOBER 2, 1995: The Mariners erased a 12-game deficit to set up a one-game playoff against California. Backed by

58,000 raucous Kingdome fans and a "Refuse to Lose" rallying cry, the Mariners rode a complete-game performance by Cy Young winner Johnson to beat the Angels, 9-1, for the franchise's first division title.

OCTOBER 8, 1995: With New York leading, 5-4, in the 11th inning of Game 5 of the American League

Division Series, Martinez drove a Jack McDowell fastball into the Kingdome's left-field corner. Joey Cora scored easily to tie it, followed by Griffey, who started on first and slid feet-first into home and a mob of teammates for the series win.

JULY 15, 1999: Seattle's baseball future exploded when \$517 million Safeco

Field opened in the city's SoDo neighborhood. Eight months later, on Sunday, March 26, 2000, at precisely 8:30 a.m., Seattle's baseball past imploded with the demolition of the 23-year-old Kingdome.

OCTOBER 6, 2000: On a glorious October afternoon at Safeco Field, in the 9th inning in Game 3

of the AL Division Series, Carlos Guillen came off the bench to push a bunt past Chicago first baseman Frank Thomas. Rickey Henderson scored from third, and the Mariners won, 2-1, sweeping the White Sox, who had finished the regular season as the AL's best team. The Mariners went on to face the Yankees in the ALCS.

THE IMPLOSION OF THE KINGDOME.





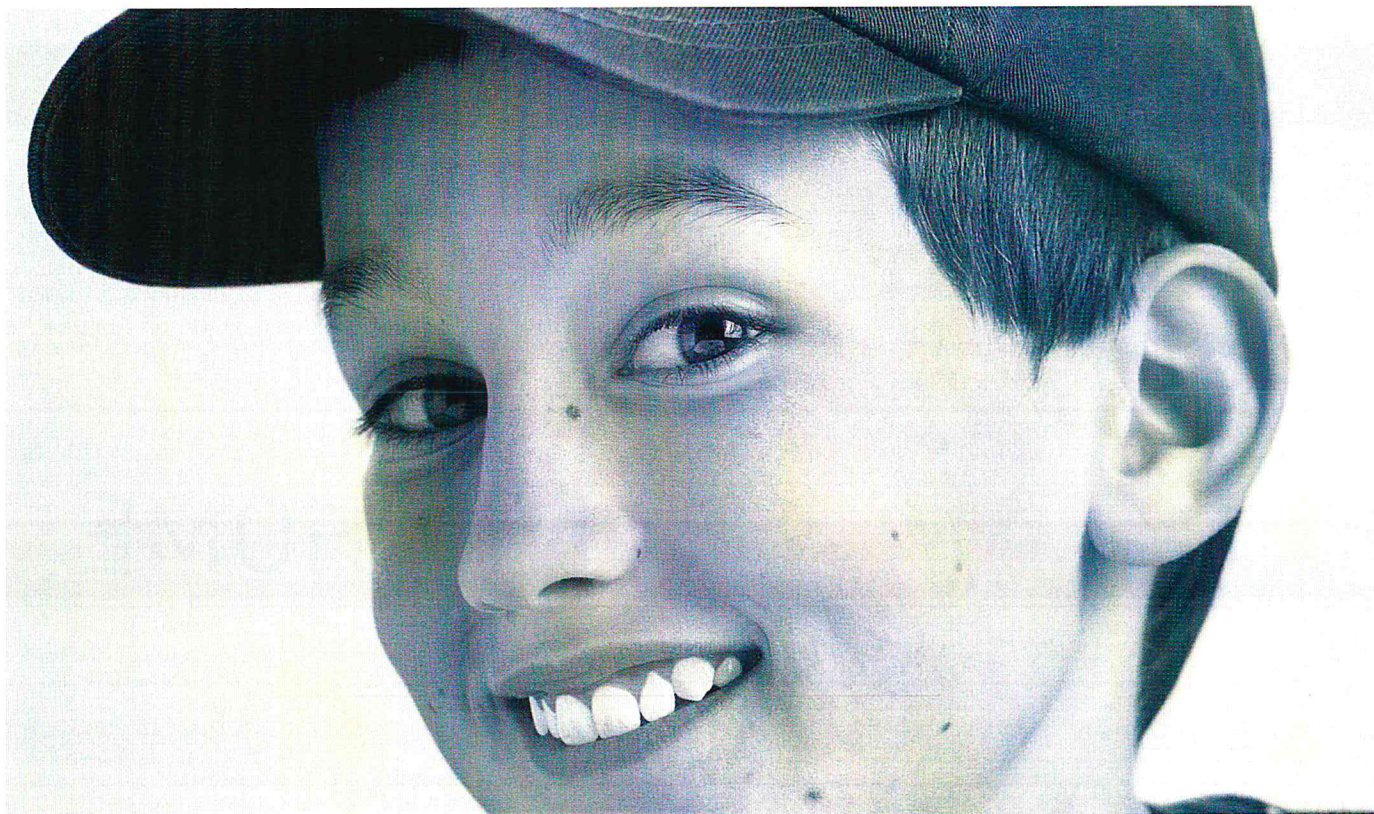
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FROM LEFT: EDDIE VEDDER (LEFT) AND PEARL JAM; RAY CHARLES; QUINCY JONES (CENTER); ALICE COOPER.

MUSIC: Strike Up the Band

It took a spawning of international proportions — bands such as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Soundgarden and Alice in Chains — to turn Seattle into a legitimate American music capital. But the fertile roots of the city's music history travel back much further — to the '40s and '50s Jackson Street jazz scene (Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, Floyd Standifer), to '60s psychedelia (Jimi Hendrix, the Sonics), to '70s radio giants (Heart), to '80s pop-metal (Queensryche) and straight into '90s pop underground (Young Fresh Fellows, Posies).

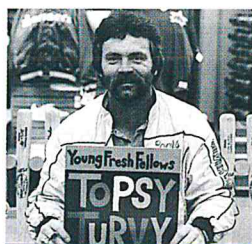
Throughout these musical timelines, there was one consistent entity — baseball. Here's a look back at the game through the eyes of Seattle's music past and present.

■ JAZZ IT UP

Trumpeter and sax master Floyd Standifer, 72, has left an impact on Seattle's jazz scene, and was a legend throughout the '50s at the Ebony and the Flame. Growing up in Portland, Standifer discovered baseball in the voice of Portland Beavers' radio announcer Rollie Truitt (the Beavers are the PCL affiliate of the Padres). Standifer recalls how his move to Seattle coincided with Jackie Robinson's entrance into baseball. "We never lived far from Sicks' Stadium. I loved going to Rainiers' day games by myself. That way I could concentrate on the game, and I didn't have to share my peanuts."

■ BEFORE THEY WERE BIG

Jack McDowell may be out of baseball, but as singer/guitarist for the San Diego band Stickfigure, the ex-pitcher has refocused on his life's other passion — music. Baseball and music collided for McDowell in 1991, when he met Eddie Vedder. "He was a nobody and so was I," McDowell says, "so we got to watch each other come into our own at the same time." The next two years, McDowell won 20 and 22 games for the White Sox, while Vedder's band — which had become Pearl Jam — was riding an international wave of success. McDowell recalls the time in 1998 when, as an Angel, he invited Vedder to take part in a September batting practice in Seattle. "We put him in full uniform. He took some swings, took ground balls at second, and ran down fly balls in the outfield. I was doing a Seattle radio interview, and Eddie took the phone and said he was a September call-up."



WHERE IS GORMAN THOMAS?

A mainstay in Seattle since 1983, the Young Fresh Fellows often planned their tours around baseball games. But the band showed its biggest adoration for the game on the 1985 album, *Topsy Turvy* — which featured the cover spine title, "Where is Gorman Thomas?"

"We loved Gorman because he was this burly Milwaukee guy who hit home runs," says former Fellows guitarist Chuck Carroll.

■ DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN?

Reverend Zady Evans (a.k.a. Seattle's "Vagabond Minister") has performed many nuptials in her 75 years, but none as widely recognized as the June 1989 wedding of Emily Bish-ton and Conrad Uno — the dubious proprietor of Seattle's Egg Studios and Pop Llama Records. With front-row season tickets to the Mariners, Uno, who produced and released the Presidents of the United States of America debut record, decided "I do" would be best said atop the Kingdome dugout at batting practice. "Manager Jim Lefebvre even called after the game to congratulate us," he says.

■ THE ROCKER UPSTAIRS

Seattle's Charles Cross, editor of the Bruce Springsteen magazine *Backstreets*, recalls the time that Alice Cooper's manager called him, asking for tickets for the rocker. "It was the first time I was ever in a limo, and it drove us about three blocks," laughs Cross. "It was also the only time I've ever seen someone mobbed at a baseball game. We sat in the Kingdome's upper deck — probably closer to his fan base — and from the first pitch, there was more attention on Alice than the game."

■ THE EX-SEATTLE TRIO

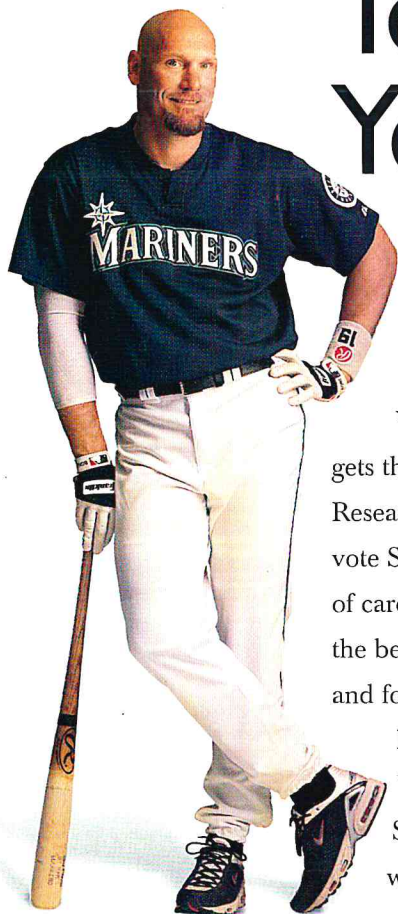
Milwaukee's Richie Sexson grew up in Brush Prairie, Wash. Omar Vizquel and Mark Langston are former Mariners. Together, the former Cleveland teammates are rock star wannabes. Sexson and Langston play guitar, while Vizquel plays drums. Following an Indians game at Safeco Field in August 1999, they appeared on stage in West Seattle for a performance. "We play a lot of classic rock, AC/DC, some disco tunes," Sexson later told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. "Neither Mark nor I play lead guitar. It's just a sound, the chords you hear."

■ QUEENSRYCHE

Baseball players have their ballpark music requests. And one often made by ex-Mariner Johnson was Queensryche, the famous pop-metal combo from suburban Bellevue, Wash. "I was at the Kingdome one night," says the band's guitarist Michael Wilton, "and all of a sudden I hear our song 'Empire.' It was unbelievable. (Drummer Scott Rockenfield) invited Randy to come watch us rehearse. This giant walks into the warehouse, and I was starstruck to see who it was. But he was a great guy. He even helped us move some heavy speaker boxes around."

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When Seattle Mariner Jay Buhner gets injured on the field, he gets his care at Swedish Medical Center/Providence campus. "In the last four off-seasons, I think I've become a household name there." And whether he comes for shoulder surgery or to have ankle spurs removed, he not only appreciates the successful outcomes, but the care along the way. "The treatment is first-class. And going into surgery, they really make you feel comfortable. They even give you some nice little cozy footies for your feet."

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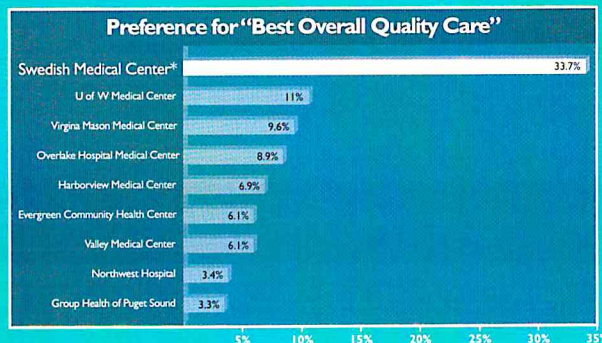
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When Sam Horowitz was born needing major surgery to connect his esophagus to his stomach, his parents turned to Swedish for experienced pediatric surgical care. "I think people should think of Swedish when they think of pediatrics. We wouldn't go anywhere else."

Check The Standings



Swedish improves its winning streak, earning the NRC Consumer Choice Award for the fourth consecutive year.*

*Source: 2000 National Research Corporation Healthcare Market Guide® (includes all Swedish campuses: First Hill, Ballard and Providence)



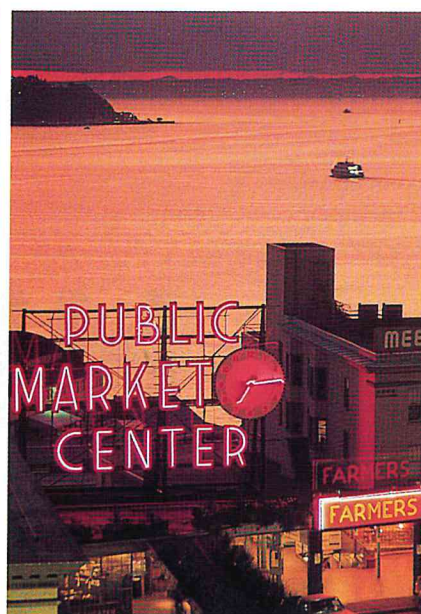
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SEATTLE'S HARBOR; THE PUBLIC MARKET CENTER; BELOW: THE FIRST STARBUCKS IN 1971.

SEATTLE SITES: Northwest's Gateway

From its breathtaking scenery to its evolution into a burgeoning, technologically savvy city, Seattle continues to evolve with the times. There are a vast array of sites in Seattle that showcase its history, and what is to come.

■ THE SPACE NEEDLE

As the gateway to the Pacific Northwest, Seattle's most recognizable landmark is the Space Needle at the northern edge of downtown. Built for the 1962 World's Fair as a salute to a space-age architectural future, the Needle's ride to the 520-foot observation deck offers a panoramic illustration of the entire region.

■ HENDRIX

A massive rainbow of aluminum and steel rests at the foot of the Needle: Experience Music Project, the brainchild of Seattle billionaire Paul Allen. The museum features more than 80,000 artifacts of all kinds of music as well as the world's largest memorabilia collection of Jimi Hendrix, the '60s rock guitarist and native son. (True fans might also consider a visit to the Jimi Hendrix burial site, 15 miles south in Renton's Greenwood Memorial Park.)

■ THE WATERFRONT AND MOUNT RAINIER

All along the downtown waterfront, clear summer days provide some of the best views in town — looking west at the Olympic Mountains and the ice-blue waters of Elliott Bay or, from a ferry, at Seattle's ever-growing skyline and scattered neighborhood hills. The touristy north-south stretch of Alaskan Way features ferry landings, seafood fare and the Seattle Aquarium. Cover more ground on the waterfront streetcar, or catch a sunset from Myrtle Edwards Park, where to the south, over the top of Safeco Field, looms 14,000-foot Mount Rainier, nearly 90 miles away.

■ DOWNTOWN AND THE ORIGINAL STARBUCKS

Ascend the Hillclimb stairs to First Avenue and Pike Place Market, where 250 vendors include fishmongers, farmers and local artists. The Market is also home to inexpensive ethnic eateries, several fine dining restaurants, and the original Starbucks, which opened in Seattle in 1971. Named for the first mate in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, the coffeehouse once offered only beans and spices, and no coffee by the cup. But its success locally led to more than 3,000 Starbucks (and counting) worldwide.

■ PIONEER SQUARE AND THE UNDERGROUND

Downtown Seattle is compact enough to cover by foot, and south from the Market on the way to the ballpark, you can't miss Pioneer Square, a village of century-old brick buildings that have been carefully restored to house offices, lofts and retailers. The historic district actually sits a story above where it was in the early 1900s when, after rising tides flooded homes and businesses, city leaders simply built the present neighborhood on top of the old one (as seen twice each morning in a guided Underground Tour). Pioneer Square features a thriving nightlife scene, art galleries, restaurants and one of America's best literary holding cells, Elliott Bay Book Company.



■ THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

East of Safeco Field, an assortment of Asian restaurants, bakeries, grocers and gift stores make up a vibrant cluster known as the International District. Dozens of affordable ethnic eateries line the bustling, narrow streets. Don't miss Uwajimaya, a giant Asian supermarket that's worth a visit without spending a dime. ♦

Scott Holter is a freelance writer who covers music and baseball in Seattle.

MR. STEADY

There are three constants for **Edgar Martinez**:
He swings a potent bat, has a blue-collar work ethic,
and is more than happy to remain in the shadows.

FOR MOST OF THE 1990s, DISCUSSIONS OF BASEBALL IN Seattle often began and ended with Randy Johnson, Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez, from their play to their personality to their departure. But through it all, one constant has remained — a .300 hitter, a possible Hall of Famer and one of the most underappreciated stars in the game.

Edgar Martinez enjoys working in the shadows. Even now, with the other three headliners gone, there's yet another big story in Seattle — the debut of Japanese star Ichiro Suzuki — so once again the quiet Puerto Rican can just go about his business. A 10-time .300 hitter who batted .324 with a whopping 145 RBI last year, he's the closest thing that the big leagues have to a bricklayer — a blue-collar, lunchpail-type of worker who gives an honest day's work day after day, as reliable as the sunrise.

"I've never seen him have a bad at-bat," Alex Rodriguez says of his former teammate. "It's amazing — he's always on every pitch, always knows what he's doing up there. He was a great player to learn from."

Going strong at 38, Martinez has risen to saint-like status in Seattle, revered for his work ethic and his loyalty to the Mariners. Part of that has to do with how rarely he talks about himself; yet with the All-Star Game in his backyard, he sat down with us to discuss his Seattle legacy.

Major League Baseball: Now that the Johnson, Junior and A-Rod eras have ended, is this now *your* team?

Edgar Martinez: I don't feel that way. I don't think we've ever felt in this clubhouse that one guy was responsible.

MLB: What has it been like for you to always be overshadowed by bigger stars in Seattle? Have you enjoyed being off to the side without much fuss about Edgar?

EM: Yes. It has allowed me to concentrate on my work a little better. The other guys — Junior, Alex and Randy — were always great with handling all the media and everything. For my personality, it's been great to just work and work and work. I feel more comfortable that way.

MLB: You have stayed in Seattle your entire career, a rarity today. What is it about the city that you value so much?

EM: I really enjoy playing in front of the fans in Seattle. I was accepted like part of the city and it feels really good. The people are very friendly in Seattle. Great fans. I guess through the years, we've developed some kind of connection. My wife is from here. Pretty much my whole life is in Seattle.

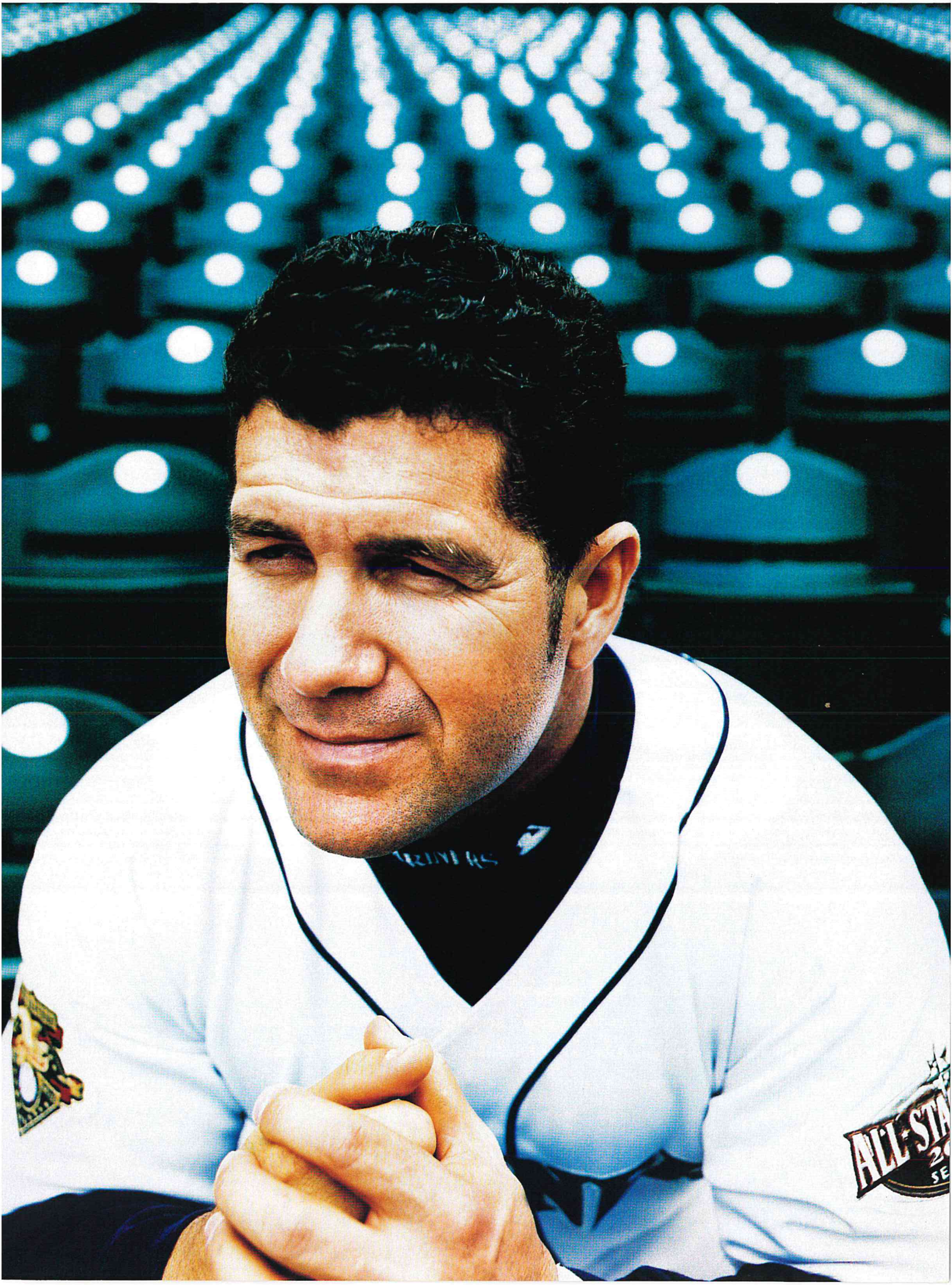
MLB: Will you live in Seattle after your career ends?

EM: Everything looks like it's going to be that way. Our house is here, and we're planning to build a new one.

MLB: Of course, retirement could be many years away. How have you remained so consistent into your late 30s?

EM: I've learned over the years what I really need from one stage of my career to the next, or one year to the next. I learned about my body and what I need. Conditioning is very important. Through the years, I've tried to make the rest period after the season smaller and smaller so I don't lose my swing and my timing. I keep working and working.

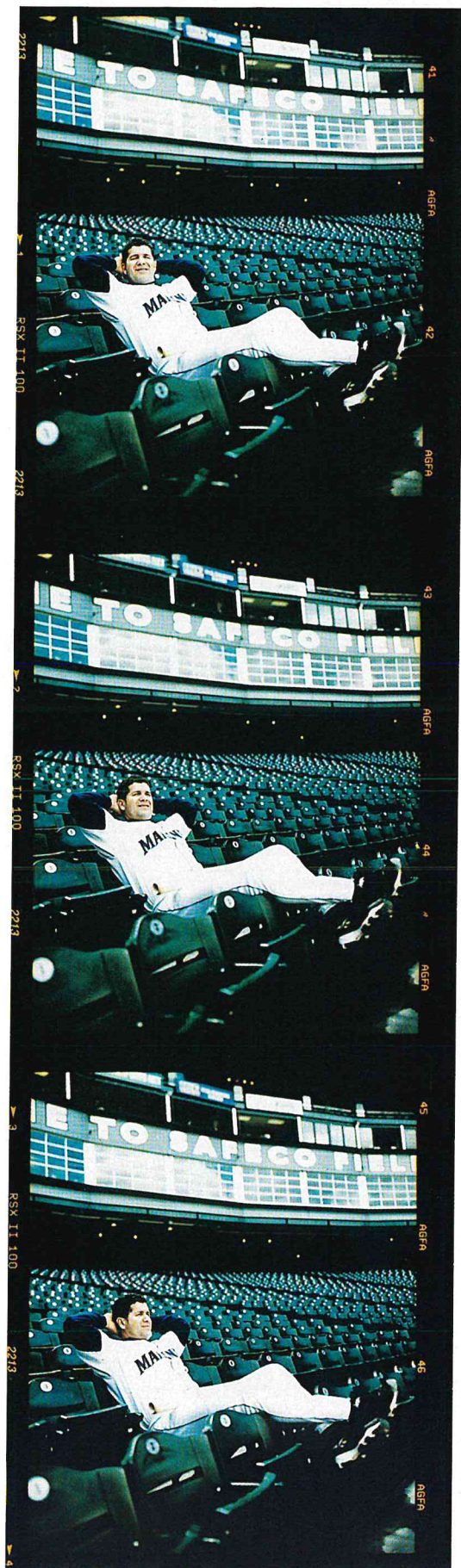
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAREN MOSKOWITZ





What? You thought Seattle was all computers, coffee and rain? Well, it is. But we know a bit about baseball, too. And more importantly, we know post-game festivities. While you can't swing a Louisville Slugger without hitting a no-fat-half-caf-soy-vanilla latte, NWsource.com can also point you in the direction of some non-caffeinated fun. With thousands of bar, restaurant and event listings, NWsource.com has all the info you need to enjoy the best of what Seattle has to offer.

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We are so there.



MLB: How short is that rest period now? About 10 minutes?

EM: A little longer. It's only about a week-and-a-half, though. I feel that this has helped me in my later years. I used to take about a month off, but now I feel I can't do that.

MLB: You're Puerto Rican, of course, but many people don't know that you were born in New York.

EM: Yes, I was born in New York, and when I was a year old, my parents split up and I went back to Puerto Rico with my grandparents. They raised me in Puerto Rico. When I was about 12, my mother and father got back together and they wanted to get the family back together again, but I stayed with my grandparents until they passed away.

My grandparents were blue-collar, middle-class workers. My grandfather would leave home at 5:30 in the morning and come home around 6:30 at night. He was a construction truck driver — it could be dirt, rocks, anything for construction.

MLB: Did you learn your work habits from your grandfather?

EM: No doubt about it. He was that kind of worker. Boy, if I didn't feel like doing something, he would make me do it. At that time, I was stubborn. I wanted to do what I wanted to do. But he pushed me. He told me that you have to go get things in life. They don't just come to you.

"FOR MY PERSONALITY, IT'S BEEN GREAT TO JUST WORK AND WORK AND WORK. I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE THAT WAY."

MLB: Did you play Little League in Puerto Rico?

EM: I played Little League, Sandy Koufax, Mickey Mantle — all those leagues. And my grandfather was there. Always. He liked baseball, and even when games were on the radio, late at night, he'd turn the radio on and listen in. I was there listening, too. I learned that love of the game from him.

MLB: I take it those weren't Mariners games, with guys like Julio Cruz and Mike Parrott?

EM: Nope. They were Puerto Rican winter league games. We were big fans. I looked up to Tony Perez, Jose Cruz, Jerry Morales.

MLB: How much did it mean to Puerto Rico to have the Rangers and Blue Jays play there on Opening Day in April?

EM: That meant so much. They were so excited. I talked to a friend and he said he waited seven hours to get a ticket. And they sold out real quick. He got a ticket, though.

MLB: What, you didn't get him one? Some friend you are.

EM: Hey, those were tough tickets.

MLB: Are you jealous that Carlos Delgado and Ivan Rodriguez got to play in front of their Puerto Rican fans?

EM: Oh yes — I'm very jealous. I'd love to be in a game and play over there as a big leaguer. Hopefully that will happen.

MLB: You didn't reach the Majors at 18 or 19 like Alex or Junior. Did it make you more of a workman-like player to have to prove yourself in the Minors until you were 26?

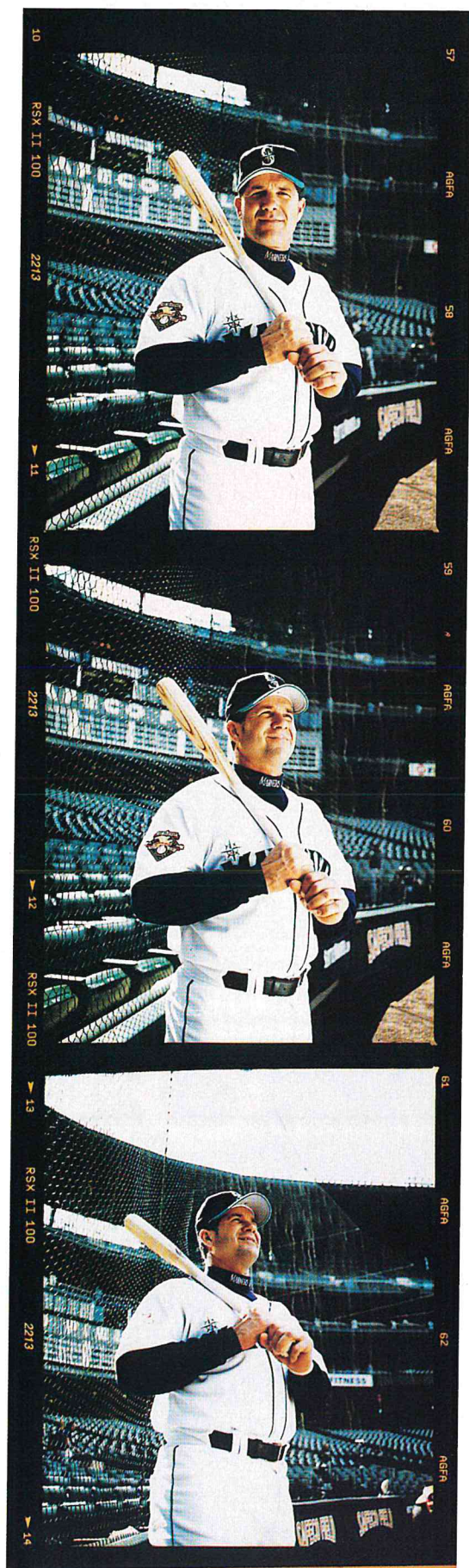
EM: I went through the Minors waiting for that chance. But I saw that you needed to pay your dues. Then it started changing a little bit — these kids, 18, 19, 20, already in the big leagues. But I felt good about going through that process and putting in all that work.

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M R . S T E A D Y



MLB: During those 10 days at the end of the year when you're relaxing, do you ever think about the Hall of Fame?

EM: Last year it was mentioned a lot. That's one of the first times I really thought about it — do I really have a chance? I know that comparing numbers with other Hall of Famers, I'm way behind. I really have no idea. But it makes me feel good that people mentioned that I have a chance. Paul Molitor was a DH for a while, and Harold Baines. If they get in, I might have a better chance.

MLB: Do you even own a glove anymore, or do you just borrow one when you get pressed into service?

EM: I have an old glove that looks like new. I like to take a third baseman's glove or a shortstop's glove and play around with it. I played third base before, so I'm much more used to the smaller glove. When I use a first baseman's glove, it feels so awkward on my hand.

MLB: Do you miss playing defense?

EM: I had a hard time when I started DH-ing — those first two or three years. I used to enjoy that feeling you get when you make a good play in the field. It gives you more satisfaction of being a ballplayer. Even if you have a good offensive year as a DH, there's something missing.

MLB: You were 3 for 3 in stolen base attempts last year. Is speed an under-appreciated part of your arsenal?

EM: (Laughing) I'm no speed demon out there. I know what my job is.

"I HAD A HARD TIME WHEN I STARTED DH-ING THOSE FIRST TWO OR THREE YEARS. I USED TO ENJOY THAT FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU MAKE A GOOD PLAY IN THE FIELD."

MLB: Do you have a secret talent that people don't know about? Like juggling, or something like that?

EM: Artistic talent, none. I like boating and computers a lot. I also do some internet stuff. I have a Casio Pocket PC, a laptop — everything. That Pocket PC is great. Tom Lampkin showed me one and I said, "I gotta get one of those."

MLB: You're around tech stuff in Seattle, of course. And you probably drink lots of coffee, too.

EM: Oh yes. I love coffee. Last Christmas, my wife got me an espresso machine. I love my coffee.

MLB: If baseball had a tournament like World Cup soccer, which is being talked about, what would that be like?

EM: That would be great for baseball, for players and for fans. It would be very exciting.

MLB: If it didn't come about until 2005, would you delay retirement so you could play for Puerto Rico?

EM: It would be a big motivation to push on. Wow, I can't imagine. It would be so much fun to play for Puerto Rico. We'd be tough, but we've always been a little low on pitching. The Dominicans have good pitching — Pedro (Martinez) and Bartolo (Colon). They have good arms and good players, too. But Puerto Rico has good position players — Robbie Alomar and Pudge. And the U.S. would be loaded. We'd give it a good run — I guarantee you that. ♦

Alan Schwarz is senior writer for Baseball America.

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A photograph of a person standing on a snowy mountain peak at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

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BY BOB FINNIGAN

BASEBALL
IN SEATTLE

ONE-MAN SHOW

Before **Seattle** became a galaxy of stars, the Mariners produced just one All-Star in each of their first 10 seasons.



L-R: RUPPERT JONES, CRAIG REYNOLDS, BRUCE BOCHTE, RICK HONEYCUTT

BEFORE JUNIOR, ALEX AND THE BIG UNIT. EVEN BEFORE Edgar and Bone. Before the Mariners were known by more unofficial one-name monikers than the Brazilian national soccer team, they did have All-Stars, believe it or not. But it took 10 years for the Mariners to send more than one representative to an All-Star Game.

And in those days before Seattle was recognized as a baseball town and as a legitimately tough team that could contend for the pennant, before the Mariners were a galaxy unto themselves with five All-Stars in 1996 and 1997, their standout players were nowhere near as recognizable as those that were on the horizon.

Yet those 10 players had their seasons in the sun. Well, sort of — they did play their home games inside the Kingdome, after all.

■ 1977: RUPPERT JONES

Jones is the seminal Mariner, the first player taken by Seattle from the Kansas City organization in the first round of the 1976 draft to stock the expansion club. An

outfielder at Berkeley (Calif.) high school with future Major Leaguers Glenn Burke and Claudell Washington, he was the only rookie selected to the American League All-Star team in 1977. Kingdome fans cheered him as “Rupe! Rupe!” as he led AL center fielders with 24 home runs that year, including one that ended Dennis Eckersley’s no-hit streak at 22 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, two outs from tying Cy Young’s record.

■ 1978: CRAIG REYNOLDS

A former first-round Pittsburgh pick in the 1971 draft, Reynolds joined Seattle in one of the Mariners’ first trades, coming from the Pirates in return for pitcher Grant Jackson in December 1976. He was the first of three Mariners All-Stars traded at the end of their All-Star season, going to his hometown of Houston for pitcher Floyd Bannister in December 1978. The first in a line of solid Seattle shortstops, his .292 average in 1978 was 19th best in the league; he hit into only four double plays and turned 102 of them, second best in the AL.

The object of the game is to come home.



'kaeru' come home.

帰る

Exactly.

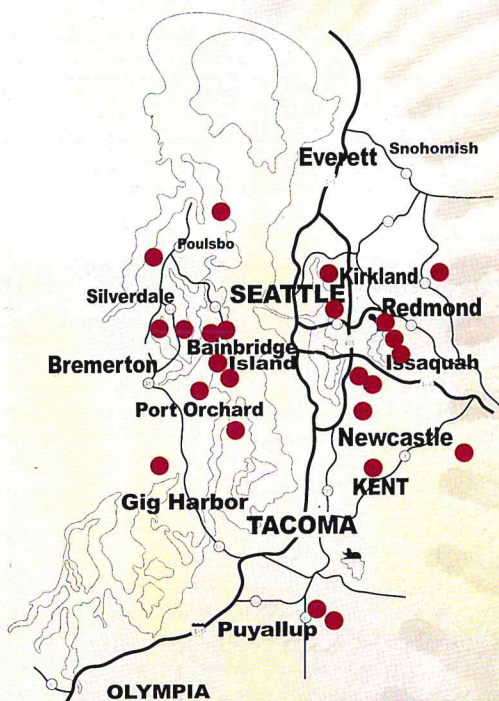
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■ 1979: BRUCE BOCHTE

The first significant free-agent signee for Seattle, in December 1977, and still the only Mariner ever to list collecting tropical fish as a hobby, Bochte was in his second northwest season when he was selected to the American League All-Star team while hitting .326 with 65 RBI at the break. He didn't start the season opener at first base, but took over in the second game and stayed at that position for most of the next four years. Bochte received a standing ovation from a sellout Kingdome crowd and delivered an RBI pinch-hit single to give the AL a 6-5 lead and become the first Mariner to hit safely and drive in a run in All-Star play. He set five club records that season, hitting .316, with 15 game-winning RBI, a .392 on-base percentage and 38 doubles.

■ 1980: RICK HONEYCUTT

Honeycutt had one of the most up-and-down All-Star seasons ever. The left-handed pitcher began the year by winning his first six starts — best in the Majors. He then made



L-R: TOM PACIOREK, FLOYD BANNISTER, MATT YOUNG

■ 1981: TOM PACIOREK

He signed as a released player in 1978 and became one of the Mariners' best acquisitions in the early years. He was also one of the most well-liked and popular players with Seattle fans. The outfielder is remembered fondly for being the man who beat the hated New York Yankees in back-to-back games in May 1981, with dramatic game-ending, ninth-inning home runs, including one before a Saturday night sellout in the Kingdome. Long-

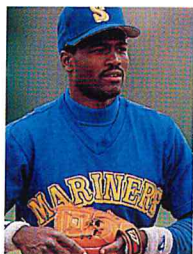
TOM PACIOREK IS REMEMBERED FONDLY FOR BEING THE MAN WHO BEAT THE YANKEES IN BACK-TO-BACK GAMES IN MAY 1981, WITH DRAMATIC GAME-ENDING, NINTH-INNING HOMERS, INCLUDING ONE BEFORE A SATURDAY NIGHT SELLOUT.

the All-Star team, but did not appear in the game. He ended what began as such a promising year by losing 14 of 15 starts after May 23. Having gone a respectable 11-12 in 1979, Honeycutt wound up a disappointing 10-17 in 1980, and became the second Seattle player traded at the end of his All-Star year. He went to the Texas Rangers in December 1980 as part of a 10-player swap, the biggest trade in Mariners history.

time Seattle fans also remember him as the star of the Mariners' outrageous "Funny Nose Glasses" marketing campaign. In the Midsummer Classic he had a pinch-hit single, and finished the season leading the Mariners in batting average (.326), RBI (66) and hits (132). After his All-Star year, he was the third All-Star dealt in four years by the Mariners, going to the Chicago White Sox in December 1981.

■ ■ MAKE IT TWO ■ HAROLD REYNOLDS

Another Mariner who lives in the hearts and memories of Seattle baseball fans, Harold Reynolds was the organization's first two-time All-Star and first premier defensive position player. The spark plug second baseman was on the American League team in 1987, when he joined pitcher Mark Langston, giving Seattle two All-Stars for the first



time. Reynolds, who made the All-Star team again the next year, also won a Gold Glove in 1988, '89 and '90. In 1987, the year he tied the Major League mark with 12 assists in a game, he set the Seattle team record with 60 stolen bases and ranks second on the Mariners' career stolen base list with 228, to Julio Cruz's 290. More than any statistics, however, Reynolds was special to long-suffering Seattle fans because of his boundless enthusiasm for the game. He enjoyed it and he obviously wanted everyone around him, in the stands and on the field, to join him in that.

As respected as he was as a player, he was no less regarded for his off-field charity work. Presently, he's earning the same type of respect and regard as an analyst on ESPN's Baseball Tonight, one of the few in TV sports who puts on a uniform and takes viewers onto the practice field with him. —B.F.

■ 1982: FLOYD BANNISTER

The No. 1 pick (taken by the Astros) in the 1976 draft, the left-handed starter displayed his remarkable five-pitch abilities in Seattle for only three years. However, Bannister made the most of his time with the Mariners, and 19 years later, still ranks among the club leaders with 40 wins (10th), seven shutouts (4th), 564 strikeouts (6th), 24 complete games (6th) and a 3.75 ERA (7th). He also hurled three two-hit shutout victories, including two in the same year for the Mariners. In his breakout All-Star season, he was the first of three Seattle lefties to lead the American League in strikeouts, with 209, followed by Mark Langston (1984 to '87) and Randy Johnson (1992 to '95). His 3.43 ERA topped all left-handed pitchers in the AL, and was eighth best overall in the league.

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The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center would like to congratulate Jason Giambi, winner of the 2000 Hutch Award. The Hutch Award was created in 1965 to honor the late Fred Hutchinson, a former major league pitcher and manager, who died of cancer at age 45. Since that time, the Hutch Award has been given annually to a major league baseball player who best exemplifies the fighting spirit and competitive desire of Fred Hutchinson. Last season, Giambi's

power hitting and outstanding play at first-base earned him the American League's Most Valuable Player honor. Away from the game, Giambi is a spokesman for the CapCure, a program that fights prostate cancer by raising money and

RECIPIENTS OF THE HUTCH AWARD:

2000 Jason Giambi, Athletics	1982 Andre Thornton, Indians
1999 Sean Casey, Reds	1981 Johnny Bench, Reds
1998 David Cone, Yankees	1980 George Brett, Royals
1997 Eric Davis, Orioles	1979 Lou Brock, Cardinals
1996 Omar Vizquel, Indians	1978 Willie Stargell, Pirates
1995 Jim Abbott, Angels	1977 Willie McCovey, Giants
1994 Andre Dawson, Red Sox	1976 Tommy John, Dodgers
1993 John Olerud, Blue Jays	1975 Gary Nolan, Reds
1992 Carney Lansford, Athletics	1974 Danny Thompson, Twins
1991 Bill Wegman, Brewers	1973 John Hiller, Tigers
1990 Sid Bream, Pirates	1972 Bobby Tolan, Reds
1989 Dave Dravecky, Giants	1971 Joe Torre, Cardinals
1988 Ron Oester, Reds	1970 Tony Conigliaro, Red Sox
1987 Paul Molitor, Brewers	1969 Al Kaline, Tigers
1986 Dennis Leonard, Royals	1968 Pete Rose, Reds
1985 Rick Reuschel, Cubs	1967 Carl Yastrzemski, Red Sox
1984 Don Robinson, Pirates	1966 Sandy Koufax, Dodgers
1983 Ray Knight, Astros	1965 Mickey Mantle, Yankees

awareness for this deadly disease. Congratulations Jason Giambi. Your performance both on and off the field has made you the perfect addition to this list of baseball greats.



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FOR ALL THE AFFECTION THAT SEATTLE FANS HAVE BESTOWED ON FAVORITES IN RECENT YEARS, ALVIN DAVIS, BELOVED IN THE CLUBHOUSE AND IN THE STANDS, WILL ALWAYS BE THE FRANCHISE'S FIRST TRUE STAR.

■ 1983: MATT YOUNG

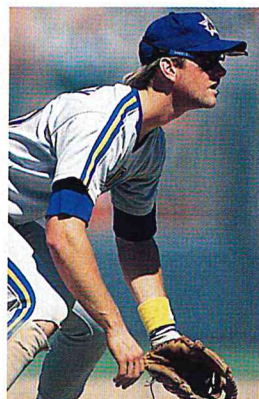
He had the best season at the break by a Mariner rookie pitcher, with 11 wins and a 3.27 ERA after going 6-3 with an ERA of 2.80 in the first five weeks of the season. He stifled left-handed hitters, holding them to a .153 average, and faced only 13 of them in his last 15 starts. His toughest win came May 8, when Boston's Jeff Newman lined a ball off his head (shortstop Todd Cruz caught it for the out), and he completed the fifth inning before leaving what was to be a 4-2 victory. He was the third Mariner left-hander named

to the All-Star team in four years. He pitched a perfect eighth inning, getting Johnny Bench and Darrell Evans out on balls in the air and fanning Pedro Guerrero.

■ 1984: ALVIN DAVIS

For all the affection that Seattle fans have bestowed on favorites in recent years, Alvin Davis, beloved in the clubhouse and in the stands, will always be the franchise's first true star. He won Rookie of the Year honors as well as an All-Star nomination despite starting the season in the Minors. He made the most of his opportunity with seven

homers and 17 RBI in his first 16 games. He hit .284 with 27 homers and 116 RBI for the year — the latter two were Seattle bests. His 116 RBI tied Al Rosen for seventh on the all-time rookie list. Davis ranks in the top five in nine offensive categories in Seattle team history.



L-R: ALVIN DAVIS, PHIL BRADLEY, JIM PRESLEY

■ 1985: PHIL BRADLEY

An all-out heady player, Bradley — a former All-Big 8 quarterback at the University of Missouri — was the unsung member of a superb rookie trio for the Mariners in 1984, along with Davis and Langston. He rewrote the Seattle record book in 1985, establishing marks of 641 at-bats, 192 hits, 319 total bases, 67 extra-base hits and 129 strikeouts. He finished in the top 10 in the league in six offensive categories, including seventh in hitting at .310. In being named to the AL team, he hit safely in 19 of the first 21 games and led the league in hitting from June 1 to June 10. After hitting only three home runs in 1,445 previous professional at-bats, he hit 26 roundtrippers in his All-Star season and 30 of his 88 RBI were go-ahead or game-tying runs.

■ 1986: JIM PRESLEY

He's still the only bona fide power-hitting third baseman that Seattle ever developed from the beginning (Edgar Martinez became a big hitter when he moved to designated hitter). Presley followed his 28 home runs and 84 RBI in 1985 with 27 and 107 in his All-Star season. His career 115 home runs and 418 RBI are both sixth all-time on the club lists. He opened the 1986 campaign with a memorable game, hitting a game-tying, two-run roundtripper in the bottom of the ninth and followed that up with a dramatic game-winning grand slam in the 10th. He ran into a disappointing slump in mid-May, dropping his average to a paltry .200, but was named to the All-Star squad for hitting .345 with 16 homers and 55 RBI over the next two months. ♦

Bob Finnigan is a Seattle Times staff reporter.

■ ■ STAR POWER ■ KEN GRIFFEY JR.

The fans who sit today and admire Safeco Field are in some respects looking at a monument to what star power did for the city and baseball status of Seattle. When Ken Griffey Jr. exploded on the scene, he ignited the city's love for baseball. While Randy Johnson, Alex Rodríguez, Edgar Martínez, Jay Buhner and others had their



part in saving baseball in the Pacific Northwest, it is Griffey who was and still is, despite his departure, the dominant figure in instilling the game in the region's psyche. Griffey's honors are almost too many to list, and his individual accomplishments pale in comparison to what he says he really wants — a World Series ring like one of three his father earned. His achievements going into the 2001 season have made as much a mark on the sport as the way his simple love and enjoyment of the game over the years has enraptured fans, especially the young ones, who have always seen him as a kindred spirit.

Here's just a sampling: the 1997 American League MVP award; a dozen All-Star teams, including five times as the top vote-getter; seven Silver Slugger Awards; 10 Gold Gloves; ownership of the Mariners' power offense book — 1,742 hits, 398 HR, 748 extra-base hits, 1,063 runs, .569 slugging percentage, 3,316 total bases.

FAR EAST OUT WEST

Mariners **Ichiro Suzuki** and **Kazuhiro Sasaki** have already become two of the fastest-rising Japanese stars in the Major Leagues.



BASEBALL IN SEATTLE

BY JIM CAPLE

JAPANESE BASEBALL HAS NEVER loomed larger in a North American city than this summer in Seattle.

Busloads of Japanese tour groups stop outside Seattle's ballpark so they can snap photos in front of a photo of Ichiro Suzuki (their national hero) that is mounted on the stadium wall. Fans occasionally wave the Japanese flag during games, while Japanese companies advertise on the stadium walls in Kanji script. Flannel shirts have been replaced by No. 51 jerseys as the area's latest fashion statement.

And a team that once struggled to sell tickets for \$6 to fans within the city greeted several hundred fans who paid up to \$1,500 to travel 4,800 miles from Japan to see the Mariners play their home opener. The cause for all this interest? Well, it certainly isn't the sushi rolls being served up behind the bullpen.

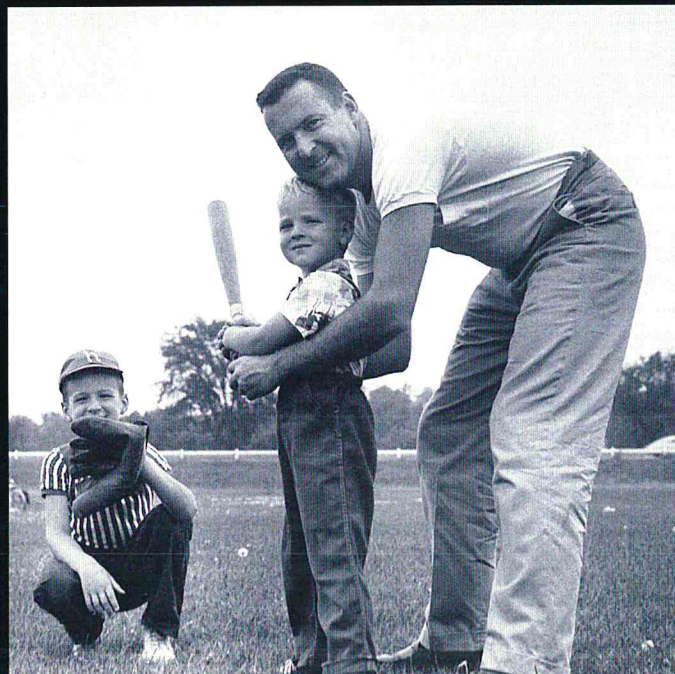
Rather, it's the presence of two Japanese stars — closer Kazuhiro Sasaki and outfielder Ichiro Suzuki (who goes by his first name). Sasaki is in his second year in Seattle and Ichiro his first, but the two already have played so well and generated so much excitement that they not only helped compensate for the departure of Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez, they also earned the highest honor available to athletes in America — they have their own bobblehead dolls.

It's hardly a surprise that Seattle has embraced the two players, for the city has a long Japanese heritage, is home to one of the country's largest Japanese communities, and is a center for Pacific Rim trade. The city is dotted with Japanese restaurants and Asian stores. Seattle also has a sister-city association with Kobe, the city where Ichiro won his seven Pacific League batting titles with the Orix Blue Wave.

Further, Seattle fans owe an unpayable debt to the Japanese Nintendo corporation for buying the Mariners in 1992 from then-owner Jeff Smulyan, who wanted to move the



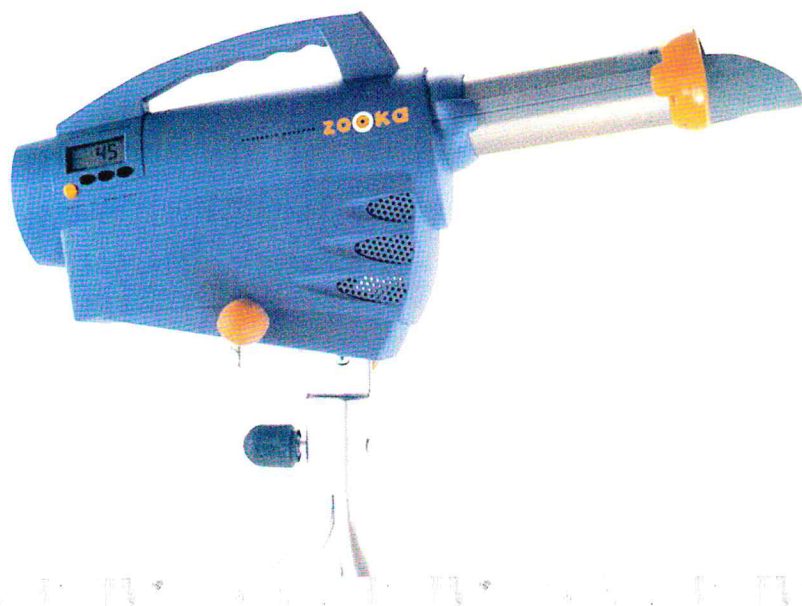
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team to Tampa Bay. That was until Nintendo stepped in and kept the team in Seattle, giving fans hundreds more Griffey home runs and Randy Johnson strikeouts.

Alas, the move also gave fans dozens more blown saves, enough that the bullpen phone's ring made grown men cry.

But again, Japan delivered, sending over Sasaki, who cured the bullpen and won the American League Rookie of the Year award in 2000. He even beat out Husky football coach Rick Neuheisel for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* "Sports Star of the Year" award, which takes some doing in a city dominated by the University of Washington.

This year brought another Japanese super rookie, Ichiro, the first Japanese position player in big league history.

Nintendo owner Hiroshi Yamauchi *usually* leaves the Mariners' management to CEO Howard Lincoln and his staff. "But one time, he asked me if I knew who Ichiro was," says Lincoln. "I said, 'No.' He said I should find out."

Lincoln did and now everyone in Seattle knows Ichiro's name. When he went 4 for 4 with a home run-robbing catch in the same game in which Rodriguez committed two errors during his initial return to Seattle, you could almost visibly see the torch being passed from one former Mariners icon to the next.

And if you didn't see it, you certainly could have read about it. The Mariners issued press credentials to more than 160 Japanese reporters during Spring Training and to two dozen reporters and photographers to cover Ichiro 24/7. And that doesn't count the NHK network, which broadcasts every Mariners home game back to Japan.



FANS IN SEATTLE TRULY FLOCK TO ICHIRO.

By comparison, there are three Seattle reporters who cover the Mariners full time.

"In Japan, it was tough to play up to expectations," Ichiro says. "One of the reasons that I came over here was to make baseball a fun sport for myself again."

Says Seattle center fielder Mike Cameron, who has the locker next to Ichiro, "It's amusing because it seems like they think everything he does has never been done before."

Still, the two Japanese players are popular in the clubhouse. While the two players teach their teammates some Japanese, they in turn learn English from Jay Buhner and Spanish from reliever Jose Paniagua (though such phrases definitely are not on the standard Berlitz tapes). The Mariners also have enjoyed watching Sasaki's karaoke performances (particularly "Unchained Melody") and his penchant for Donald Duck.

Opponents have caught the spirit as well. When the Rangers played the Mariners early in the season, Texas first baseman Rafael Palmeiro asked the Japanese correspondents for a phrase to say to Ichiro when he was on first base. So when Ichiro singled, Palmeiro was able to tell the Mariner outfielder in Japanese, "You the man."

Ichiro's arrival is affecting not only the Seattle community, but the international balance of baseball.

Fans who pass by David Ishii's bookstore in the Pioneer Square district usually find baseball books, Mariners pocket schedules and memorabilia in the main window. He's a true fan, a season-ticket holder since the Mariners' first game, cheering them through the days of Bill Stein, Salome Barojas and Orlando Mercado. He also is Nisei, a second-generation Japanese, whose family was forced to move by the U.S. government to the Midwest during World War II.



SASAKI (LEFT) AND ICHIRO HAVE SEATTLE ON TOP.

What does Ichiro's arrival mean to other Japanese in Seattle? Just that with his bat, glove and speed, he can help the team replace Griffey and Rodriguez. "I've always thought of him as a Japanese baseball player, the same as a player from Puerto Rico or from any other country," Ishii says. "There's no special meaning because he's Japanese."

Ah, but there is. Baseball, after all, has long been a mutual link between the U.S. and Japan, but for years, the U.S. role was shipping its aging or subpar players to Japan. As the expression went, American players were just like our cars — big and unreliable.

Now, however, that trade relationship is changing. There were eight Japanese players on Major League rosters on Opening Day, including Hideo Nomo, who fired a no-hitter during the season's first week.

And of course, there are Ichiro and Sasaki, bringing fans to their feet in Seattle, and to their TVs in Japan.

"A friend brought back a national newspaper from Japan and Ichiro's photo was the entire front page," Lincoln says. "Imagine that. Japan's economy is in the dumps and the government is in bad shape, so there's national pride in what this player is accomplishing here."

A regulation baseball measures just nine inches around and weighs five ounces. It's not very big. And yet, at times — such as when a slim Japanese outfielder takes his spot in the Seattle batter's box or when a tall Japanese reliever stands atop the mound — that little white baseball is as big and round as the world itself, its 108 stitches capable of bringing together two cultures across an entire ocean. ♦

Jim Caple is a senior writer for ESPN.com.



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BY BRIAN O'GARA

BASEBALL
IN SEATTLE

HEADING HOME

In the past few seasons, a handful of free agents who love the **Pacific Northwest** have chosen to play for their hometown of Seattle.

IT IS A CLASSIC SCENE PLAYED OUT IN backyards and neighborhood fields across the country. As late afternoon turns to early evening and dusk approaches, every youngster dreaming of becoming a Major Leaguer wants just one more at-bat before heading home.

Jump ahead 20 years to a player in the midst of a big league career, and ironically the call home becomes a welcomed beacon.

The perception is that free agency opens up a world of possibilities — and riches — for a player who qualifies with six years of service time in the Majors. After limited mobility and choices during the early stages of his career, a player entering free agency faces new challenges, juggling various factors that influence his decision. Among them: anticipated role and playing time with the team; the appeal of a city and ballpark; salary and term of contract; team management; and the outlook for a competitive club.

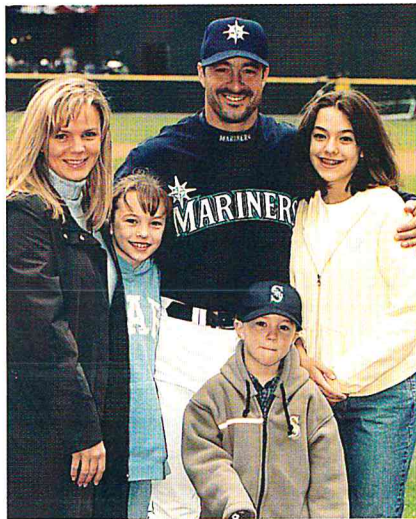
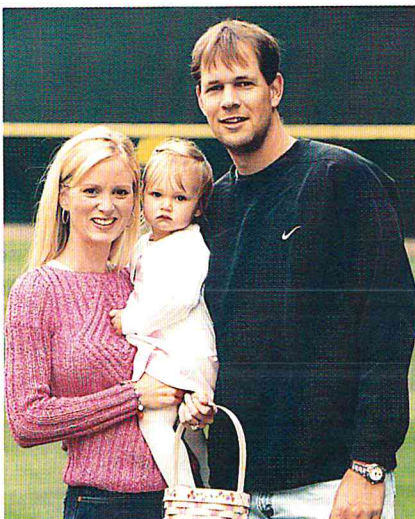
Ultimately the issues that hit home the most will lead to a decision. Often, what hits home the most is *where* is home?

In recent years, more and more prominent players have made the decision to return to their hometown,



VAN HOUTEN/MLB PHOTOS

HEADING HOME



REASONS TO STAY "AT HOME": THE SELE (LEFT) AND LAMPKIN FAMILIES.

or an area where they have some roots. Todd Hundley (Chicago Cubs) and Ken Griffey Jr. (Cincinnati Reds) returned to cities where they spent their formative years as sons of Major League standouts 25-plus years ago. Jack Morris, Dave Winfield and Paul Molitor all spent a late portion of their careers with the Twins in the Minnesota area where they grew up. When Tampa Bay joined the American League in 1998, Wade Boggs and Fred McGriff quickly signed on with the Devil Rays and returned home.

AFTER LIMITED MOBILITY AND CHOICES DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF HIS CAREER, A PLAYER ENTERING FREE AGENCY FACES NEW CHALLENGES, JUGGLING VARIOUS FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HIS DECISION.

The Seattle Mariners have been one of the most active clubs in attracting their native sons to return. In each of the last three offseasons, the Mariners have signed free agents who call Seattle home — catcher Tom Lampkin in 1999, first baseman John Olerud and pitcher Aaron Sele in 2000, and pitcher Jeff Nelson in 2001.

"I think every kid dreams about playing for their hometown team," says Sele, a 1988 graduate of North Kitsap High School in Poulsbo, Wash. "You grow up emulating the players on that team, so it's a natural progression to want to play for them. But it has to be the right fit.

"The team needed pitching, had a new ballpark, and my wife had just had a baby," recalls Sele. "Everything lined up right, like I was meant to be here."

The newest hometown addition to the roster, Nelson, returns to Seattle for a second stint. After starting his career with the Mariners, he was traded to the Yankees after the 1995 season and found himself an integral part of a team that won four of the last five World Series. Still, Nelson wanted more.

"I was ready for a new challenge," says Nelson, "and the idea of coming back to help a team I started with was very intriguing to me."

But the former Yankee adds that the emotional draw had to be accompanied by a commitment to winning. "Coming home was a part of the decision, but I'm not sure it was a big part. When you go to the playoffs for six years and get four rings, you don't want to play someplace where you will be going home at the end of September.

"This city is hungry for a winner," Nelson says, "and Seattle has really embraced this team. It's a great place to play. Once you see the great facilities here — how can any free agent not be attracted to that?"

As longtime Mariners fans can attest, it wasn't always this way. For years the Mariners struggled, and Safeco Field stands just a few hundred feet from a reminder of that — the old site of the Kingdome.

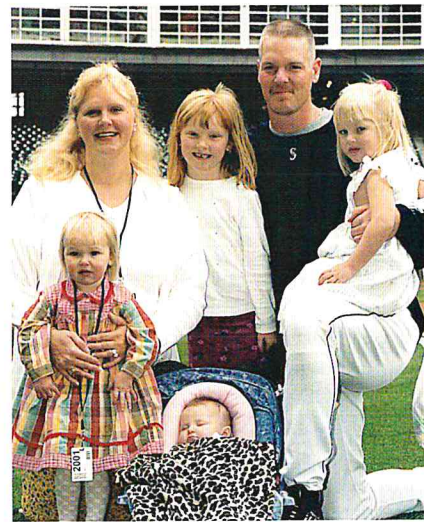
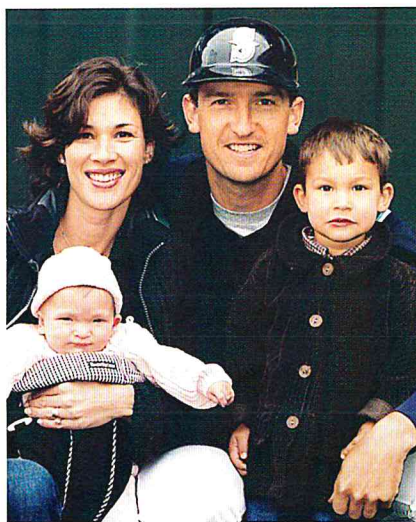
In fact, Sele's two recent trips to the All-Star Game were not his first — as a nine-year-old, he attended the 1979 All-Star Game, the first Midsummer Classic hosted by Seattle. "We were in seats about as high up as you could get at the Kingdome," recalls Sele.

One current Mariner was fortunate enough to be much closer to the action that night. Lampkin worked in the Mariners' clubhouse handling odd jobs from 1979 to

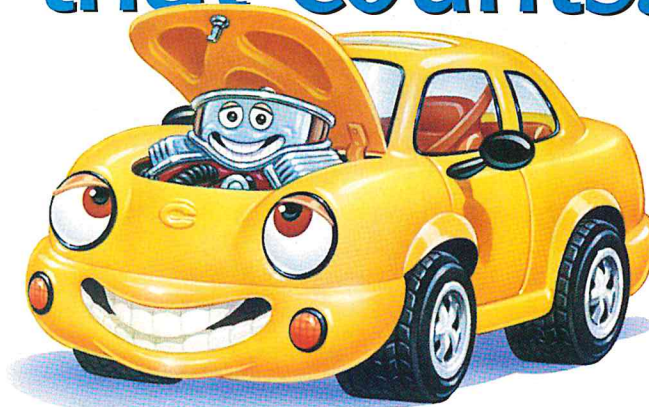
'81, and on the night of the '79 All-Star Game, he had a brief encounter with his favorite player, Rod Carew, who then played for the Angels.

"I remember running out onto the field to get something, and out of the corner of my eye, I saw him sitting on the bench as I ran past," says Lampkin, 37. "That was the closest I ever got to him. I never had the guts to ask for his autograph. But just being that close, I thought that was the coolest thing in the world."

THE OLERUD (LEFT) AND NELSON FAMILIES.

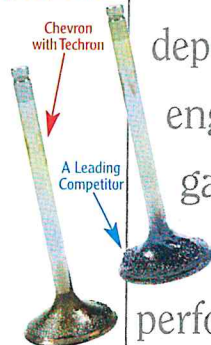


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HEADING HOME

The return home can be challenging. First baseman John Olerud spent eight years with the Toronto Blue Jays, followed by a three-year stint in New York with the Mets. Despite the draw to return to his roots, Olerud says that he struggled with the decision to come home.

"It was a very tough decision," notes Olerud, 32. "We had a great time in New York, and really enjoyed being there. We put a lot of thought into our decision. For all the benefits, you have to consider if there will be added distractions.

"You have to go into it knowing that it won't be perfect," continues Olerud. "But the pros have far outweighed the cons. For example, having grown up here, when I came back as a visiting player, the ticket requests were huge. I was concerned that if I was here every day, it might be a distraction."

To Olerud's surprise, it hasn't been. A combination of his veteran status and a full 81-game home schedule to divide up requests has helped spread out the needs of friends and family in the region. "It has become very manageable," he says, "and that has been a pleasant surprise."

Mariners General Manager Pat Gillick, the architect of the Toronto championship teams that Olerud began with a decade ago, struck a lighter note as he considered a player returning to his home turf.

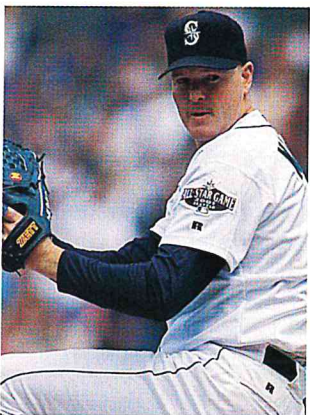
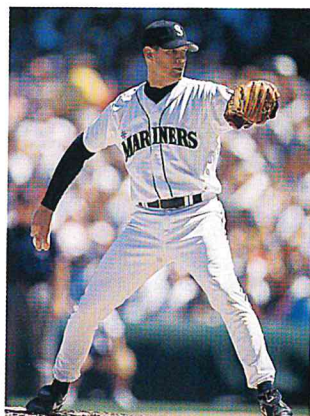
"Sometimes it all depends on how you get along with your mother-in-law," Gillick says with a chuckle.

After signing four free agents with Seattle ties over the last few years, Gillick understands the draw, and challenge, that veteran players face when returning home.

"It can be a plus or a minus, depending on the situation," he says. "It can be very difficult to come and play. There are a lot of nice opportunities, but a lot of distractions are also suddenly at play. Sometimes it is more difficult.

"These four guys — Lampkin, Olerud, Sele and Nelson — are veteran players," Gillick says, "who all have had an opportunity to establish themselves and experience living in other parts of the country — New York, St. Louis, Texas, Boston. They all really enjoy the Pacific Northwest, and they appreciate all that it has to offer. This is a great place for a family."

"LAMPKIN, OLERUD, SELE AND NELSON HAVE ALL HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE LIVING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THEY REALLY ENJOY THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST." —MARINERS GENERAL MANAGER PAT GILLICK



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SELE HAS ANCHORED THE STARTING ROTATION; LAMPKIN HAS FILLED IN AS A BACKUP CATCHER; OLERUD HAS PLAYED GOLD GLOVE DEFENSE; NELSON HAS BEEN A KEY SET-UP MAN.

Traveling for half a season can put a strain on family obligations, and all of these Mariners note the advantage of playing near their families.

"One of the biggest impacts for me has been the peace of mind with my family," says Sele, 31. "Not that you can't get that anywhere, but it's just easier to have that peace of mind here at home."

Nelson, his wife and four daughters maintained their offseason home in Issaquah during his stint in New York, so coming home also meant saying goodbye to the semi-annual moving van. "There are definitely benefits for your family life," says the 34-year-old reliever, "and it's nice not to have to pick up the four girls and move."

"It couldn't have worked out better for my family," recalls Lampkin. "The Mariners were looking for a left-handed hitting catcher, and I was able to come back home. It's great to have the chance to spend more time with the kids."

"Having both sets of parents here is a huge help," says Olerud, "especially with the kids and babysitting. You have the opportunity to feel more connected to your family and your community in this kind of situation."

Olerud recalls that sense of community that he had as a child growing up in Seattle. One of his earliest Mariners memories — after the 1977 expansion that brought Major League Baseball back to the Pacific Northwest — was a promotional program that targeted kids who loved baseball.

"I was a Pepsi Junior Mariner," says Olerud. "We got a hat, batting gloves and tickets to a game. We had seats all together out in the outfield. I still remember getting that box, opening it up and putting on the batting gloves."

As if on cue after he recalls his youth as a Mariners fan, Olerud's two-year-old son, Garrett, appears in Seattle's clubhouse, looking for his dad. Garrett sprints into his father's arms, and at this moment, all that Olerud has explained about his reasons for coming home becomes clear.

After all, isn't that the ultimate goal in this game? Take your swing, run around a little, cover all the bases, and make it back home. ♦

Brian O'Gara is the director of special events for Major League Baseball.

MASTER OF THE DEADLINE DEAL

Pat Gillick, Seattle's cool and calm general manager, has crafted more than his share of savvy deals.

OF ALL THE SOUNDS AT THIS YEAR'S ALL-STAR GAME — THE cheers, the roar of fireworks, the bombs from the home run-hitting contest — the one you might not hear is the *crack!* of a starting gun. But Pat Gillick will hear it, loud and clear.

The Mariners' general manager has his feet in the blocks, poised and ready for the beginning of baseball's second season — the three-week period when teams wheel and deal before the July 31 trading deadline. Some clubs seek the final piece for a playoff run. Some build for the future. But they're all in the mix, working the phones and checking their PalmPilot e-mails.

"There are a lot of conversations at the All-Star Game," Gillick says. "It's a very important time."

Gillick has made the most of that time in the past. The architect of the 1992 and '93 World Series champion Blue Jays helped win those titles with astute deadline deals. In July 1992, he snagged mound ace David Cone from the Mets, and the following year, he got Rickey Henderson from the A's for the stretch drive. (That last trade was done so close to the last minute that Henderson had to sign the papers on the hood of his car.) Gillick doesn't have a loose trigger finger, though. The man once known as "Stand Pat" — he went 608 straight days in the late '80s without making a trade — knows when not to deal, too, as evidenced by his resisting outside pressure and not trading for slugger Juan Gonzalez last summer. Says Royals GM Allard Baird, "There's always a calm and cool patience about him — a quiet class."

Deadline trades have become as much a part of modern baseball lore as pennant races — and the two are not unrelated. Boston faithful still can't forgive the Red Sox for trading Minor League New Englander Jeff Bagwell to Houston for Larry Andersen during the summer of 1990.

George W. Bush, then owner of the Rangers, authorized the deal that sent youngster Sammy Sosa to the White Sox in July 1989. The Diamondbacks negotiated last year's big catch when they traded for Curt Schilling. With October looming ahead, a few players can make the difference between rings and regrets.

Teams must determine whether they're going to be buyers or sellers, Gillick says, and stick with it. Those who decide they're out of the postseason picture must dispatch

scouts across the country to assess other teams' top Minor Leaguers so they can come up with the next Bagwell. Those wanting to add a star or two might do so to show the players or the fans that the team is serious about winning. "I think it proves to the players, 'Hey, our front office wants to win and will do what it can to win' — that gives them a bit of an injection," Gillick says. "The Cone trade did that. I talked to Paul Molitor when he came to our club from Milwaukee in '93. He said that

when the Brewers heard that we got Cone, it deflated them a little bit, while it hyped up our guys."

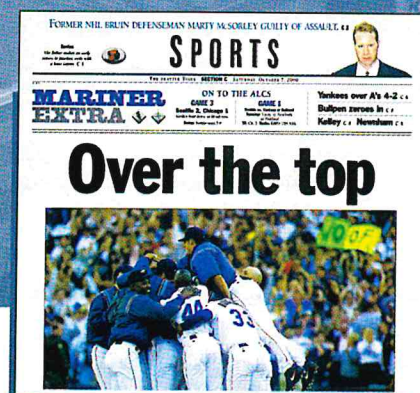
A former Orioles Minor League pitcher — one of his managers was Earl Weaver, and he once roomed with legendary playboy Bo Belinsky — Gillick spent 35 years refining his front-office skills with the Astros, Yankees, Blue Jays and Orioles before joining the Mariners in October 1999. Though he's popular among his peers, the All-Star Game's starting gun signals the beginning of a race for talent that Gillick often wins. The competition knows that he's always lurking somewhere.

"He's a first-rate trader, good enough to wear a few World Series rings," says White Sox GM Ken Williams. "He hasn't been afraid to pull the trigger — that's for sure." ♦



ICHIRO SUZUKI IS THE LATEST STAR PLAYER THAT PAT GILICK (RIGHT) HAS HELPED DELIVER TO SEATTLE.

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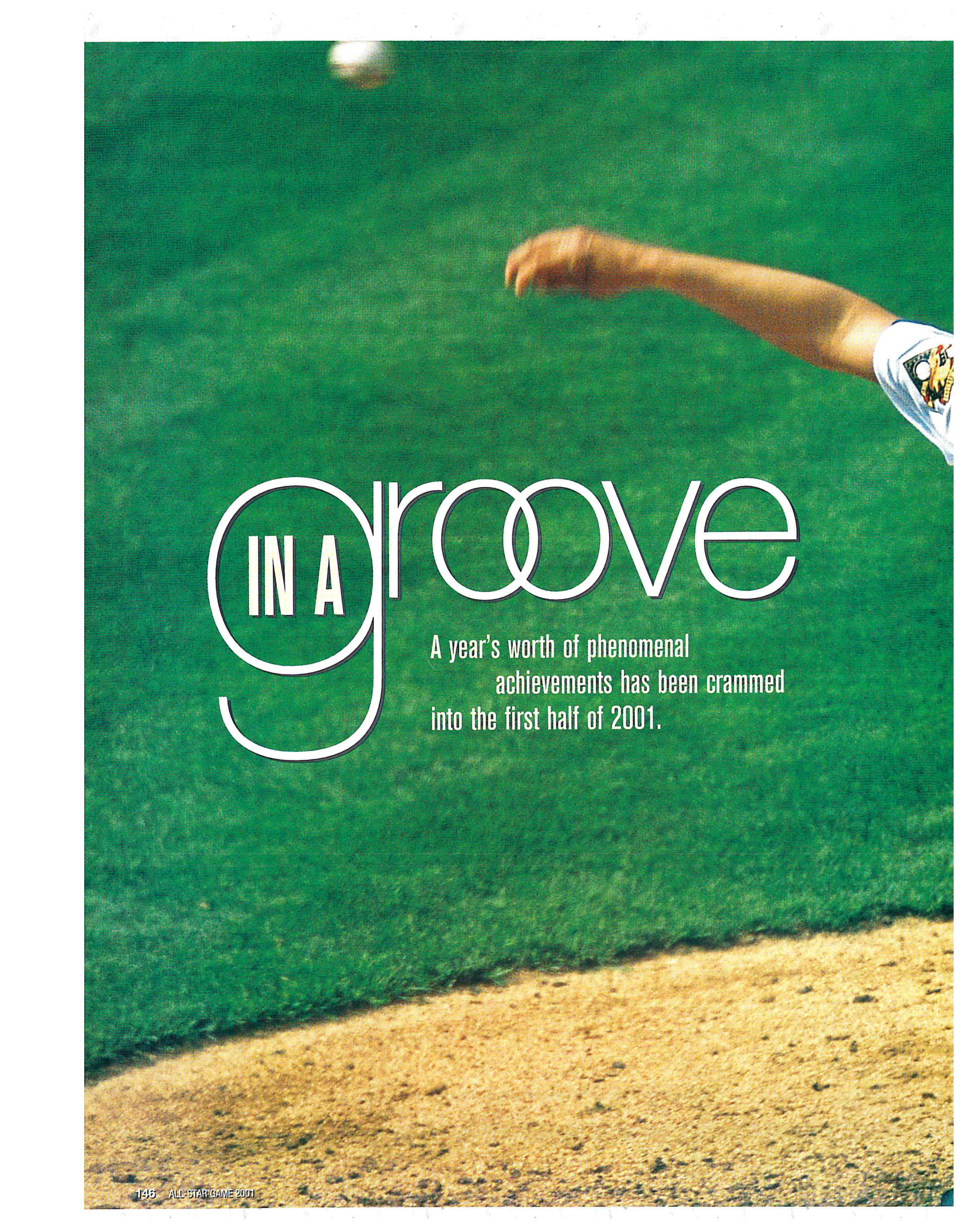


The final results are in: For the second straight year, The Associated Press Sports Editors has named The Seattle Times daily sports section one of the 10 best in the nation.

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A photograph of a baseball player's arm reaching out towards a baseball in mid-air. The background is a lush green baseball field with a dirt base path visible at the bottom. The text 'IN A groove' is overlaid on the image.

IN A groove

A year's worth of phenomenal
achievements has been crammed
into the first half of 2001.

A full-page photograph of baseball pitcher Kazuhiro Sasaki in mid-pitch. He is wearing a white Seattle Mariners uniform with a black cap featuring the 'S' logo. He is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with his right leg extended back and his left leg planted on the dirt. His right arm is extended forward, holding a black baseball glove. The background is a lush green baseball field under bright sunlight.

Kazuhiro Sasaki: Last year's AL Rookie of the Year, Sasaki set the big league record for saves in April with 13. The Japanese closer is also on pace to challenge Bobby Thigpen's all-time record for saves in a season (57).

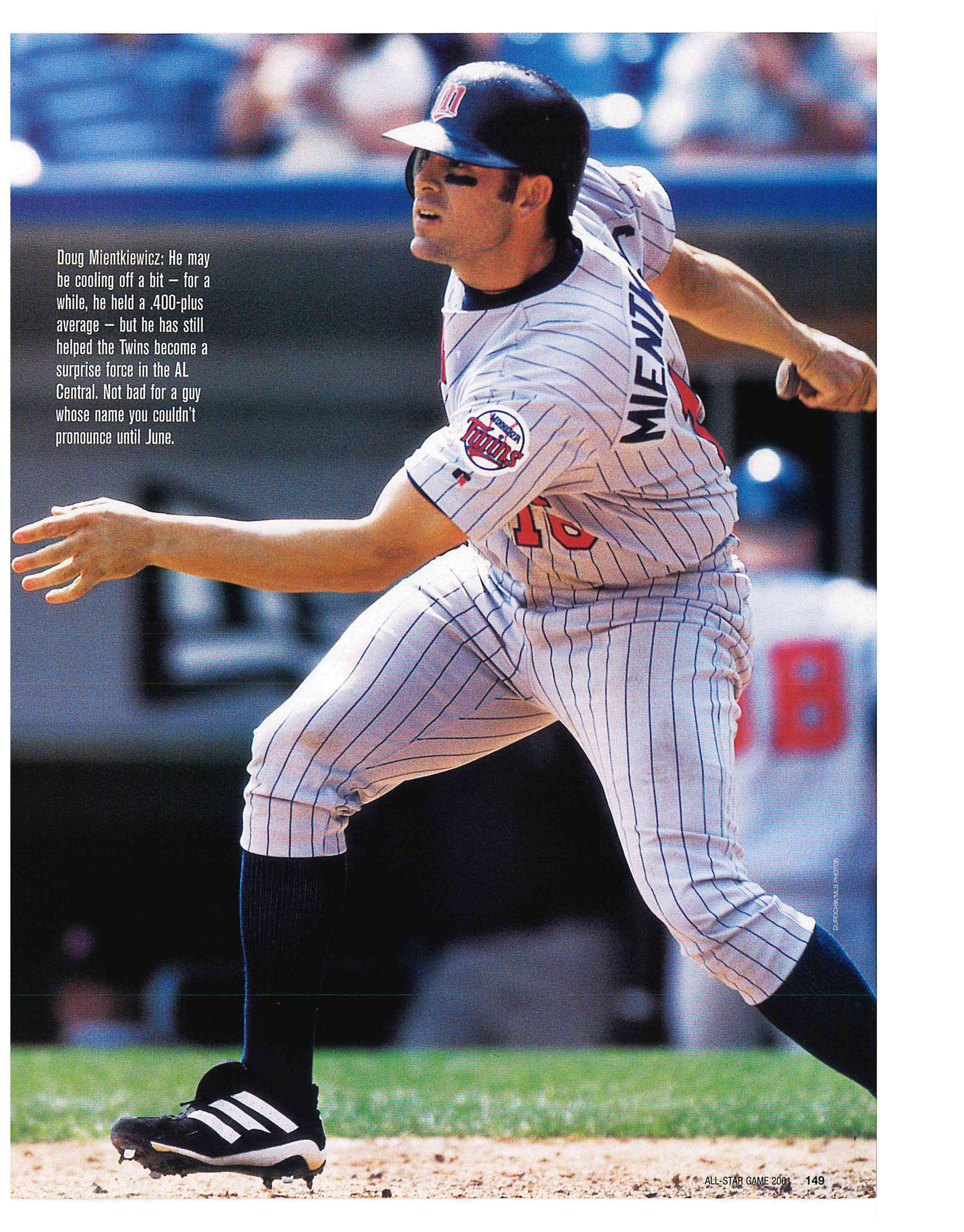
SCOTT NELSON

IN A groove



Ichiro Suzuki: Another Japan-to-Seattle import, Ichiro has simply done everything for the Mariners. He can throw from the right-field corner to third with no bounce, and he tallied hit streaks of 15 and 23 in his first 41 games.

WILLIAMSON/MLB PHOTOS

A full-page photograph of baseball player Doug Mientkiewicz in a Minnesota Twins uniform. He is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with his right leg extended and his left leg bent, as if he has just thrown a ball or is preparing to. He is wearing a white pinstriped jersey with "MIENTKIEWICZ" and the number "16" on the back. A circular patch on the left sleeve reads "2001 AL MVP". He is also wearing a blue cap with a red "T" and black socks with white stripes on the shoes. The background is a blurred stadium scene.

Doug Mientkiewicz: He may be cooling off a bit — for a while, he held a .400-plus average — but he has still helped the Twins become a surprise force in the AL Central. Not bad for a guy whose name you couldn't pronounce until June.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHOTOFEST

A full-page photograph of A.J. Burnett, a baseball pitcher, in mid-pitch. He is wearing a white Miami Marlins home uniform with blue pinstripes. The word "MARLINS" is printed in blue across the chest, and the number "43" is below it. He is wearing a black cap with the Marlins logo. His right arm is extended forward, holding a baseball, while his left arm is back in a power position, wearing a black glove. The background is a blurred stadium scene with red and blue hues.

IN A groove

A.J. Burnett: Just to prove that his no-hitter on May 12 was no fluke (he did walk nine batters, after all), Burnett hurled a two-hitter on June 9. He allowed just nine earned runs in his first seven starts (and six of those runs came in one outing against the Mets).



Albert Pujols: Okay, so he may not be on pace to hit 70 homers, but he *is* set to challenge the rookie home run record of 49 set by teammate Mark McGwire. Pujols spent only one year in the Minor Leagues.



IN A groove

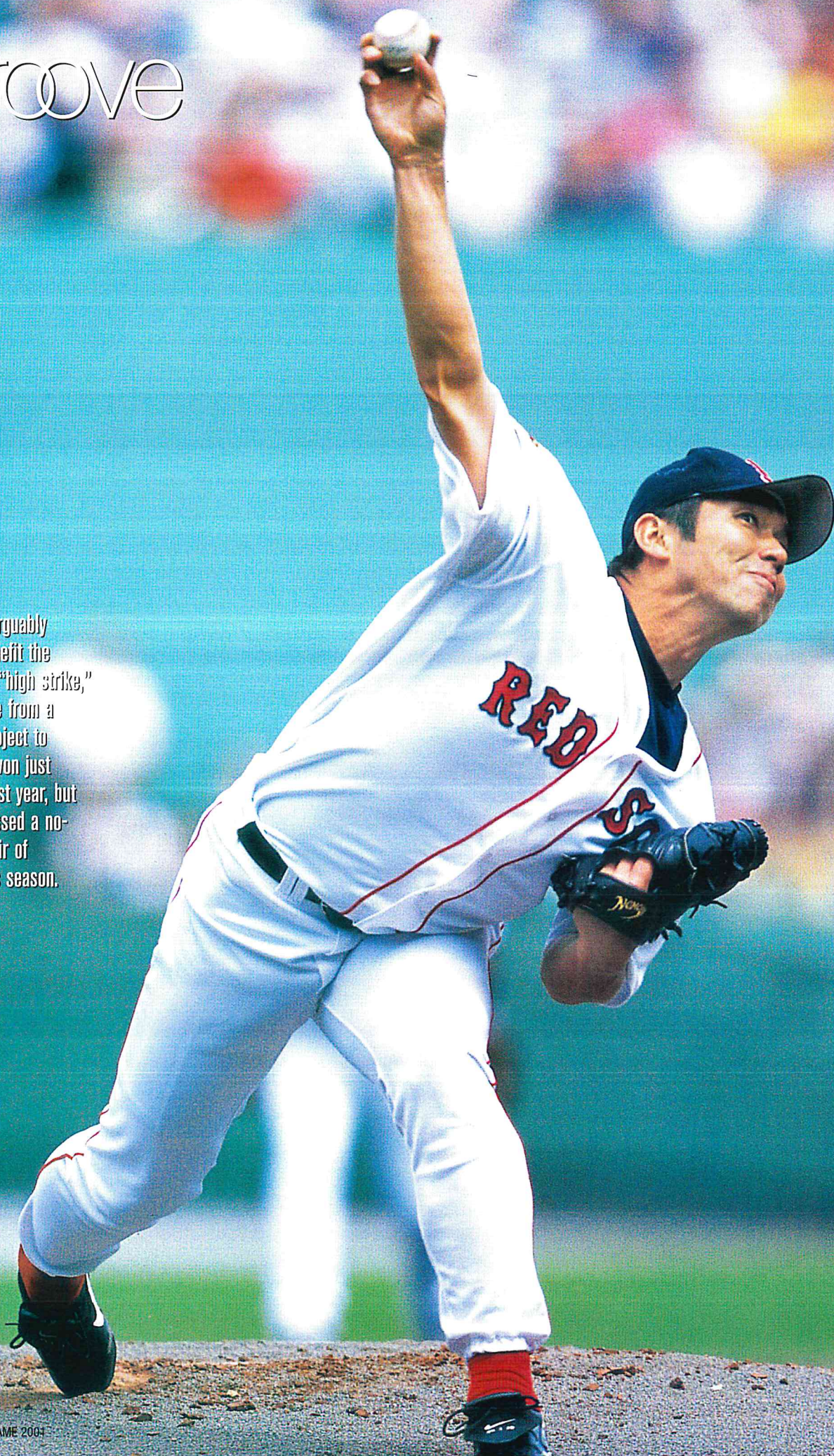
Luis Gonzalez: This slugging Diamondback tied a Major League record with 13 home runs in April and has helped keep Arizona near the top of the NL West. He was on a pace to exceed his career high for homers (31) before the All-Star break.

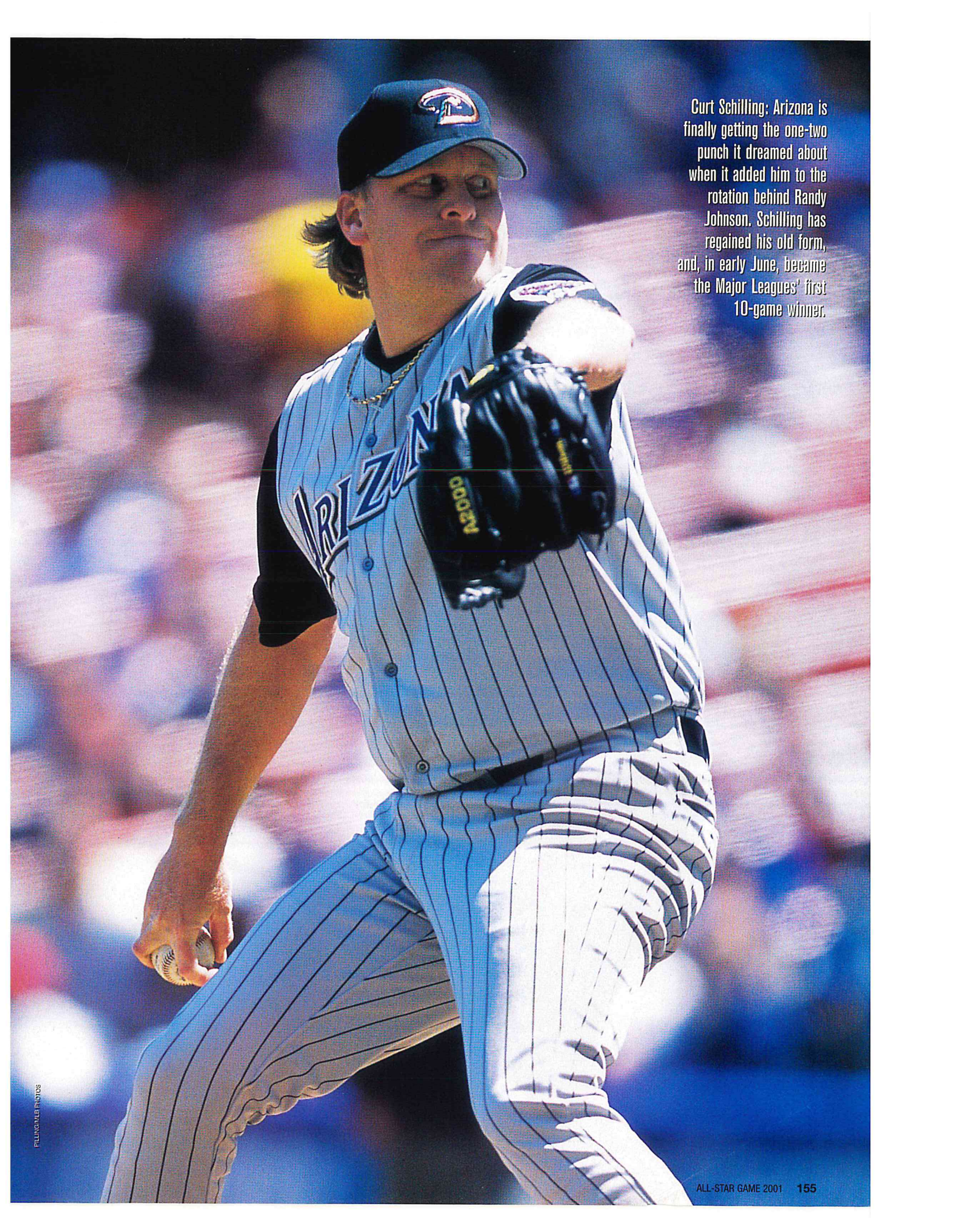
A full-page photograph of baseball pitcher Mike Hampton in his Colorado Rockies uniform. He is wearing a white pinstriped jersey with the number 10 and the Rockies 'CR' logo. He is also wearing a black cap with the 'CR' logo and a black glove on his left hand. He is in a pitching motion, with his right arm extended forward and his left leg lifted. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

Mike Hampton: Can't win in Coors Field, huh? This gritty Rockies hurler won his ninth game before the middle of June. He also belted five home runs in the season's first 2-1/2 months, seriously jeopardizing Wes Ferrell's record of nine dingers by a pitcher.

IN A groove

Hideo Nomo: Arguably the man to benefit the most from the "high strike," Nomo has gone from a reclamation project to masterful. He won just eight games last year, but has already tossed a no-hitter and a pair of one-hitters this season.

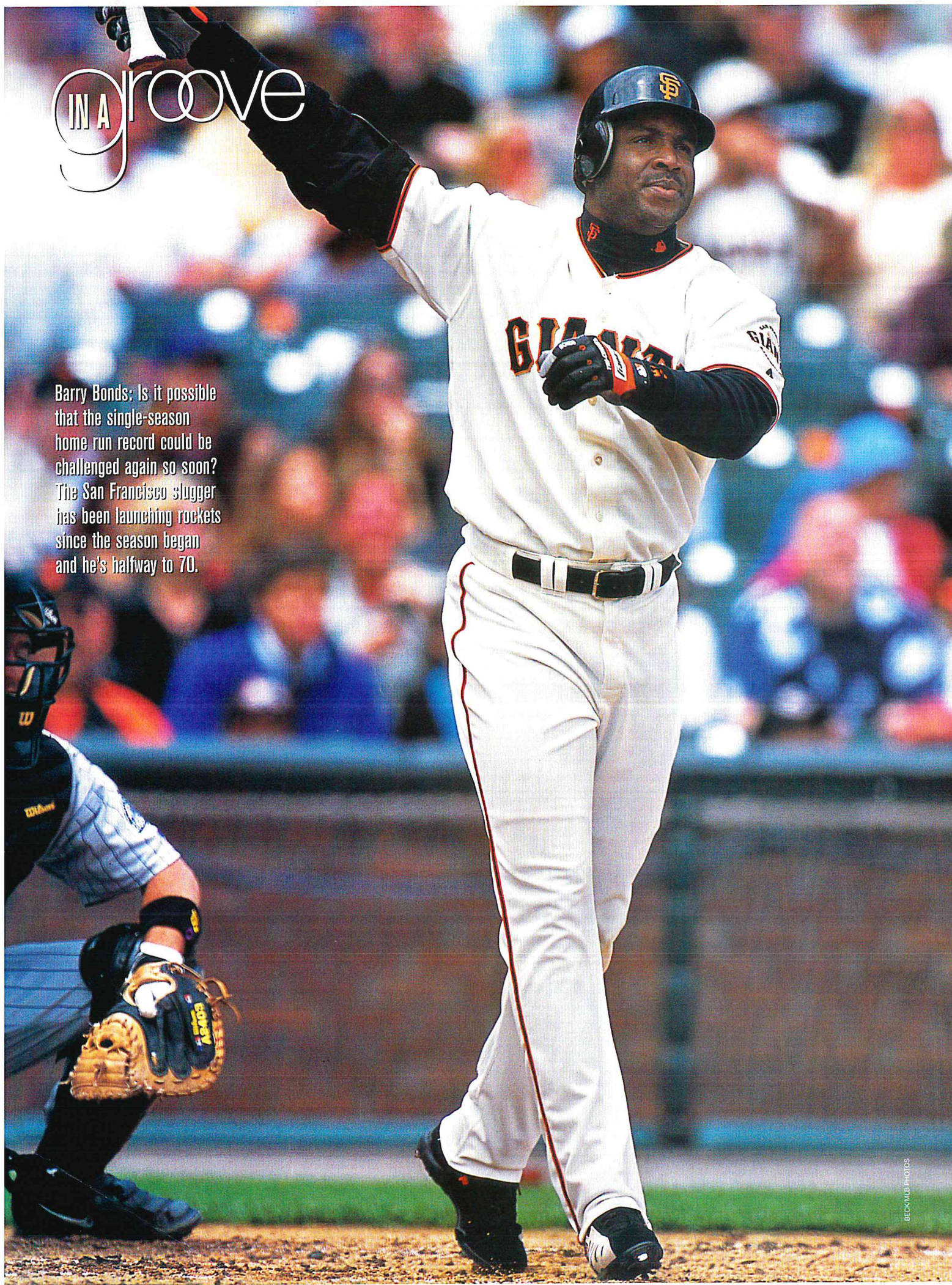


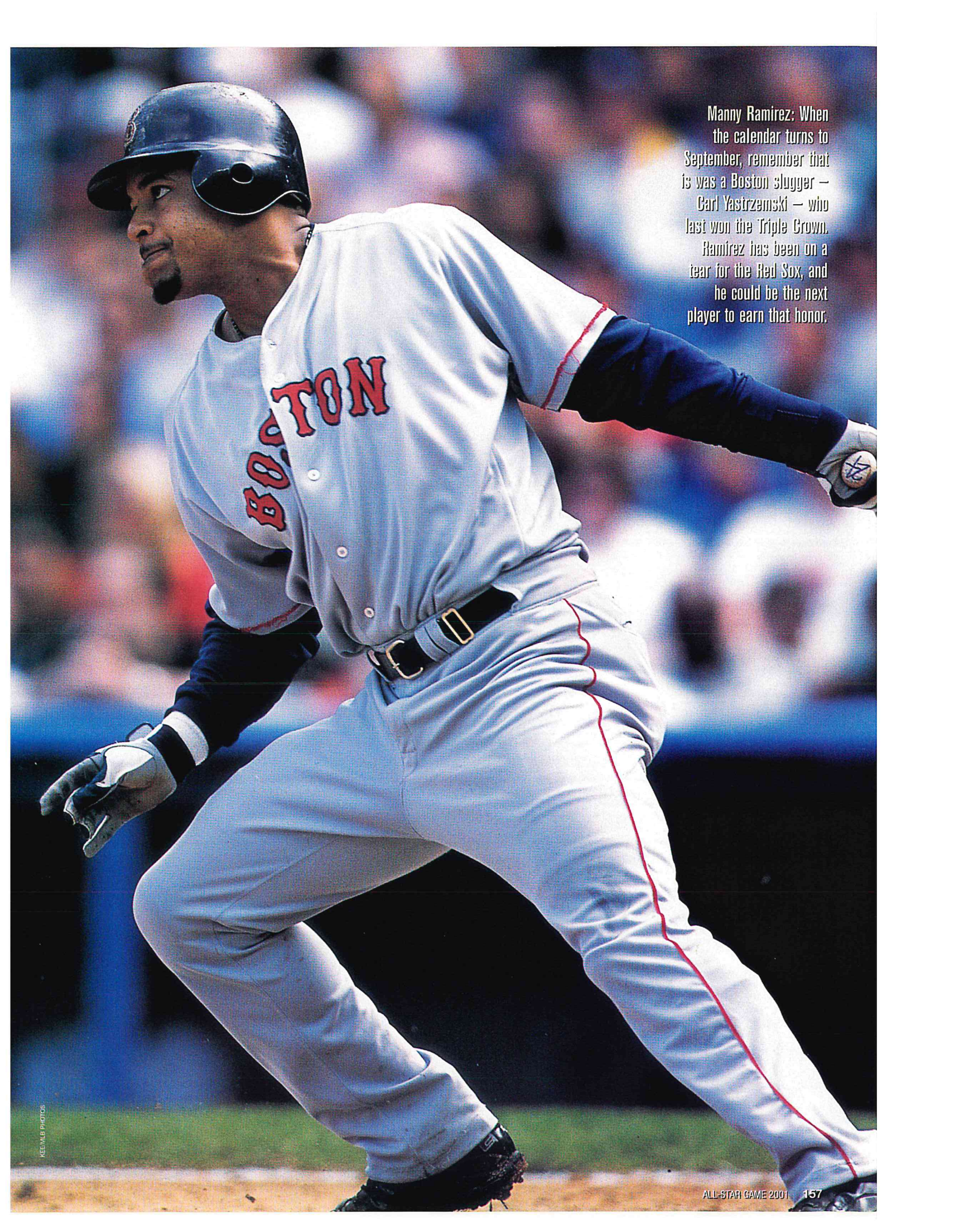
A full-page photograph of Curt Schilling in his Arizona Diamondbacks uniform, captured in the middle of a pitching motion. He is wearing a light blue pinstriped jersey with "ARIZONA" on the front, a dark blue cap with the team logo, and a black glove. The background is a blurred stadium crowd.

Curt Schilling: Arizona is finally getting the one-two punch it dreamed about when it added him to the rotation behind Randy Johnson. Schilling has regained his old form, and, in early June, became the Major Leagues' first 10-game winner.

IN A groove

Barry Bonds: Is it possible that the single-season home run record could be challenged again so soon? The San Francisco slugger has been launching rockets since the season began and he's halfway to 70.



A full-page photograph of Manny Ramirez in a Boston Red Sox uniform, captured in a dynamic pose as if running or sliding on the field. He is wearing a white jersey with "BOSTON" in red lettering, white pants with a red stripe, and a black batting helmet. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

Manny Ramirez: When the calendar turns to September, remember that is was a Boston slugger — Carl Yastrzemski — who last won the Triple Crown. Ramirez has been on a tear for the Red Sox, and he could be the next player to earn that honor.



A simple (yet ludicrous) plan to push the limits on the diamond.

Xtreme Baseball

Want to know the last time that anyone tinkered with the rules of the national pastime? Well, aside from Interleague Play (introduced in 1997), the most recent change was the arrival of the designated hitter to the American League in April of 1973. 1973! Do you realize what the Padres were wearing in 1973?! How about current players? Diapers, mostly. Derek Jeter and A-Rod weren't even alive in 1973. How about Mike Piazza and Jeff Bagwell? The only five-year-olds on the playground with facial hair. A two-year-old Pedro Martinez was throwing more tantrums than strikeouts and a very junior Ken Griffey was still years from watching his father from the Reds' dugout. As far as many of today's players are concerned, the game has been played the same way during their entire lives.

Before 1857, the first team to score 21 aces (or runs) won the game. I'm sure this seemed like a dandy idea at the time, but today, could you imagine how long the game would last if, say, Kevin Brown was facing Greg Maddux? Months. Back

in 1871, a batter was given the option of requesting a low or high pitch. How far do you suppose a McGwire blast would travel if he could request low and a bit inside? From St. Louis to Albuquerque.

To the players of yesteryear, rules such as the designated hitter or pitching from more than 50 feet away may have seemed extreme, even ludicrous. Now, they're just old hat. Even a bit tame. Let's face it, we live in a world verging on the extreme. We push everything to the limit. Seems like we put an "X" in front of everything (to those in the know, an "X" means extreme). Just plain games weren't enough. ESPN had to invent X-games. XFL tried to replace NFL, and Christmas is in danger of being replaced by X-mas.

But it makes you think. Aside from the White Sox's on-field shorts disaster in the '70s, baseball has been working very well for 150 years. What sort of changes could the national pastime encounter on its move toward the excessive?

BY CHRIS FRANCHINO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD BORGE

Is it possible that 100 years from now, people will be referring to Interleague Play as too extreme? Or could the face of baseball take a dramatic turn toward a bigger, more extreme variety?

Cardinals second bagger Fernando Vina suggests, "Put cameras all over the field ... talk to the hitter and the pitcher between pitches ... set up cameras on top of the outfield fences and talk to the outfielders." That's thinking! If it's the bottom of the ninth, and the Yankees' Paul O'Neill strikes out with the bases loaded, put the cameraman in his face to ask him what he had for breakfast! Does he like puppies, and why didn't he think to hit a home run? Note to self: Insure cameras.

Everything will be miked. Fans should hear the sounds of the game. Miked rosin bags. Miked bases, miked bats and miked gloves. I want a mike on the ball and a mike on the foul pole. Put a mike in the ballpark food because somewhere, somehow, somebody wants to know what it sounds like to be a hot dog.

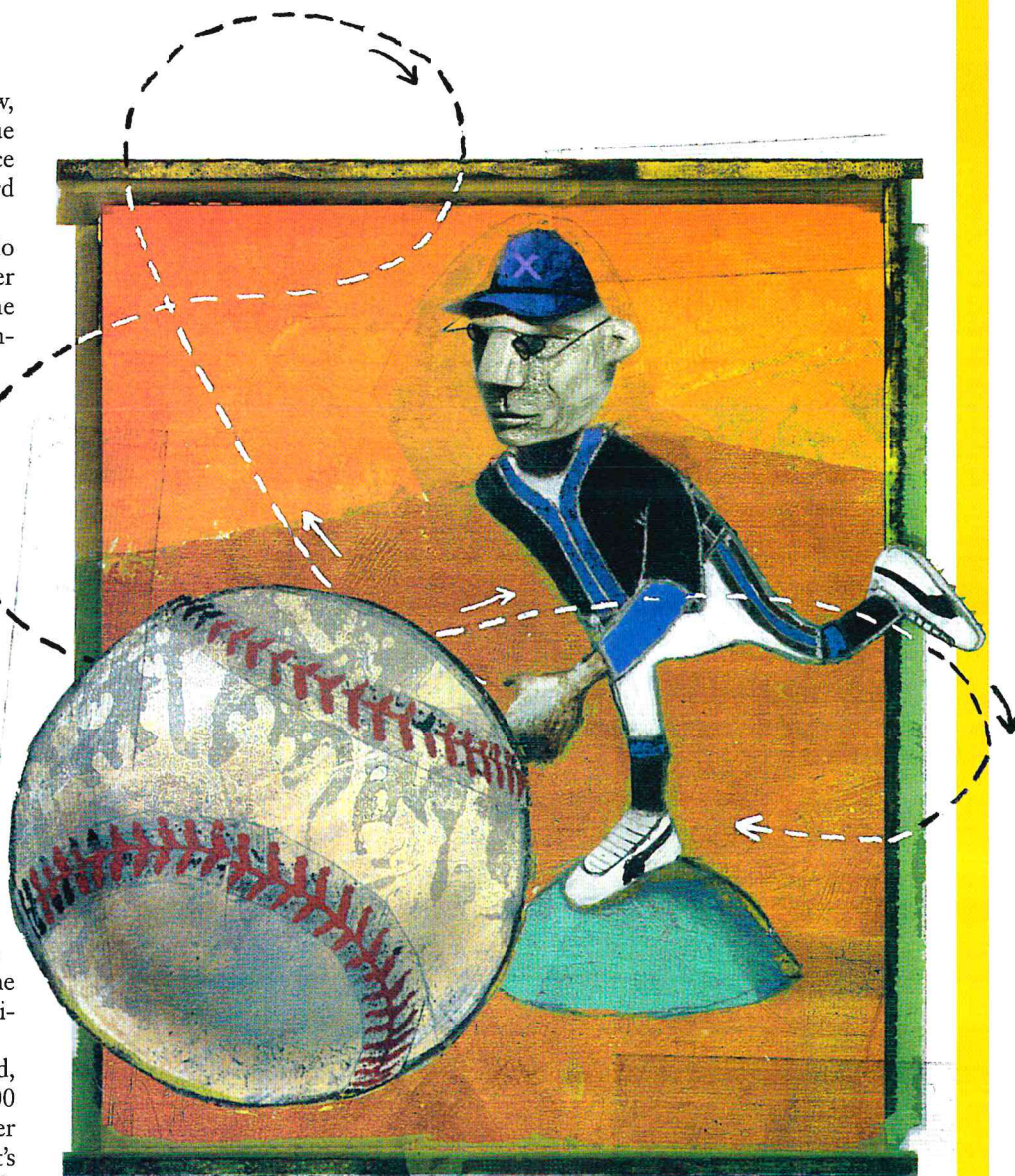
Announcers will, of course, sit in the stands with the fans, preferably in the bleachers, wearing the away team's uniform. Note to self: Invest in hard hats.

As far as the field itself is concerned, let's move those fences back 200 or 300 feet. I don't want to see another pitcher hit a home run ever again. And what's with all that empty real estate? Infielders have to worry about base runners breaking up plays, so let's give the outfielders some hazards as well. Let's put more park in ballpark. A few precisely placed sand traps, a frog pond and a tree or two will keep those long distance patrollers on their toes. And maybe we can put stick-um on the wall.

"I don't know about that," says Cleveland's Jaret Wright. "It would be funny, but it seems like it might be dangerous if Kenny Lofton went up to catch a ball at the wall and he didn't come down." Jaret, buddy, that adds to the excitement.

While we're at it, let's get rid of that silly tagging-up rule. If your teammate laces a deep drive to deep center, you can run at will. Let's see those outfielders test their arms. But if you get caught, it's two outs and you have to wear a sombrero for the rest of the game.

There will be no more force outs, either. Infielders must physically touch the base runner with the ball for it to be recorded as an out. But infielders



IF A PITCHER DOESN'T THROW A BALL WITH A LITTLE "SOMETHIN' EXTRA," IT'S A PENALTY.

without the ball can block the runner until he's tagged. And tickling is allowed, but not encouraged.

"My idea would be to move the mound closer," proposes Wright. "Let's see, the mound 50 feet, 6 inches. That would definitely make my job easier." And we'd probably raise that mound to, say, 32 inches, just for grins.

"Give us five balls for a walk," adds Indians closer John Rocker. "Raise the seams on the ball. And make it so that pitchers can scuff." Don't stop there, ole Johnny boy. If a pitcher doesn't throw a ball with a little "somethin' extra," it's a penalty. The batter gets no free rides in this league.

Says Blue Jays slugger Brad Fullmer, "If you hit a bullet right at somebody, which really annoys me, you should be able to run out and tackle him to try to knock the ball out."

Well pitchers should get to flex their muscles a little bit, too. As Wright, a mighty tough fireballer, says, "If a guy takes you deep, you could challenge it. There would be a fair competition from three categories — darts, arm wrestling and horseshoes."

One of the classiest things in all of baseball is the curtain call — fans appreciating their heroes for a tremendous hit. That's what Extreme Baseball is all about. Besides the butterflies that the player gets from so much platonic love, let's give him an extra at-bat.

I'm sure the question on everyone's mind is, "Would Extreme Baseball use the designated hitter?" Of course it would. But just like every position player, the DH must be active even when his team is not at bat. He'll compete with the opposing DH in a hot dog eating contest, immediately

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A

T THE CONCLUSION OF EACH GAME, FANS OF THE LOSING TEAM HAVE THE ABILITY TO VOTE OFF ONE OF THEIR TEAM'S PLAYERS.

followed by a footrace. The losing DH will be forced to watch *Rocky V* (and *Jaws 4: The Revenge* if time permits) for the remainder of the game.

One of the most frustrating things about the current rules is the pitching change during a rally — especially when your favorite team has the bases loaded and the pitcher is struggling just to throw the rosin bag behind him. This always seems to occur when your team's best hitter is coming up and he needs a home run for the cycle. Well, in Extreme Baseball, the manager would have the ability to block a call to the bullpen once per game.

Say the bases are loaded, the manager has already blocked a pitching change, and the on-deck batter is in an 0-for-40 slump. What would you do? Well, to spice things up, the batter has the ability to bat or, if he so chooses, the other team may decide on a physical challenge for him. If he successfully completes the physical challenge, he may select any player to bat in his place.

And what about extra innings? Don't get me wrong. Everybody loves a good 14-inning thriller. Nothing is more exciting than a game-winning, extra-inning homer. Let's have a whole bunch of them. A game that's tied after

regulation will go into a best-of-five home run derby. If both teams are still tied after the derby, the mascots will square off in a steel cage match. Kids love mascots, right?

In Extreme Baseball, players could show off their individuality. They could wear their hats forward, backward, sideways or rally-cap style. However, to cut down on prima donnas, players must select only one of the following: a cap, eye black or Oakleys.

Players can use aluminum bats — or anything else, for that matter. If you can swing it, it's legal. Also, gloves are still mandatory, but if you make a catch with no hands, it counts as two outs.

Jersey backs will feature names or, if the player prefers, nicknames. Go ahead, Ken, let "Griffey" be replaced by "Junior" if you want; and Ivan, go ahead and wear "Pudge." Rocket, I'm sorry, in regards to the Yankees, no nicknames of course.

Why should the extreme-ities be reserved for the field of play? Why not get the fans involved? For starters, nothing spells seventh-inning stretch quite like 50,000 fans and only one working bathroom. Also, for the extreme ballpark feast, let's substitute the tossing of peanuts with molten hot oatmeal.

Last but not least, at the conclusion of each game, fans of the losing team have the ability to vote off one of their team's players.

Oakland's Eric Chavez likes the new ideas. "Extreme Baseball would definitely be more entertaining than football," Chavez says. "I guess the first thing they would have to do is get some cheerleaders." Now we're talking!

But Chavez's teammate, Barry Zito, takes the traditional approach.

"It's hard to change baseball. You can't make it flashy. Well, you could make it like dodge ball and throw the ball at someone," jokes Zito. "No, it's an old game. I don't know if you can change it."

"I think that's a good thing about our game — they don't touch it," says Diamondbacks pitcher Brian Anderson.

Former MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn put it best when he said, "I believe in the Rip Van Winkle Theory: A man from 1910 must be able to wake up after being asleep for 70 years, walk into a ballpark and understand baseball perfectly."

Ah, nonsense. ♦

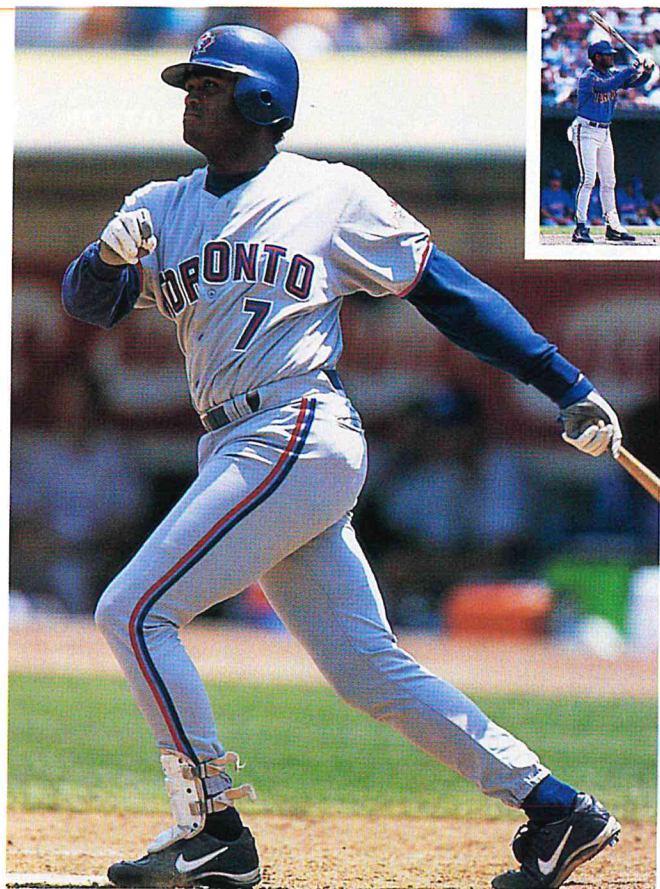
Chris Franchino is a freelance writer based in New Jersey.

BY PETE WILLIAMS

Here's a look at the 27-and-under home run hitters club.

THE NEW POWER GENERATION

It used to be that sluggers were born, not made. If a player hit 30 home runs in the Majors, he usually had demonstrated the potential to do so years earlier. ■ That's no longer the case. Players such as Nomar Garciaparra and Jason Giambi, who were doubles hitters in college, have hit the weights and transformed into home run threats, if not Triple Crown contenders. ■ "A guy can make significant gains power-wise even at the Major League level," says Detroit General Manager Randy Smith. "We seem to see that a lot more now than we did maybe 20 years ago." ■ But solely weights and nutritional supplements can't explain the trend. Baltimore's Tony Batista, for instance, transformed into a serious power threat almost by accident while tinkering with his swing during the offseason. ■ Richard Hidalgo's work ethic is as much responsible for his power surge as his physical development or the Astros' move into homer-friendly Enron Field. Colorado's Todd Helton, a doubles hitter, actually developed home run power by toning *down* his work with weights. ■ Bulky sluggers such as Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Juan Gonzalez have set the standard for the 30-something power generation. But an examination of baseball's top sluggers age 27 and under suggests that their younger counterparts are taking varied paths to home run prominence.



TONY BATISTA, 27

Standing perpendicular to the mound, Tony Batista looks as if he's waiting for a pitch from the third baseman. It's his unique way of picking up the pitcher's delivery, and he times his stride to catch up with the pitch.

No one in baseball has a more bizarre batting stance, but coaches are not about to tinker with it, not after it produced 72 homers from 1999 to 2000.

"You don't mess with success," says Toronto hitting coach Cito Gaston. "The stance may look strange, but he gets into the right swing when the ball is in the hitting area."

Batista was a light-hitting second baseman when he made it to the Majors with Oakland in 1996. Two years later, he developed the stance during a five-game hitless streak while playing winter ball in his native Dominican Republic. He got a hit in his first at-bat and never switched back.

"I just wanted to open up and see the pitcher better," Batista says. "Sometimes I surprise myself with the way I hit the ball."

Batista cracked 18 homers for the Diamondbacks in 1998, but they failed to recognize his emerging power and traded him to Toronto in '99. He joined the Orioles in late June.

Teammates and opponents marvel at his amazing production, but it's unlikely that anyone will attempt to duplicate his unorthodox hitting style.

Says former teammate Carlos Delgado, "I don't know how he does it with that crazy stance of his."

Power Fact: Batista set the Blue Jays' home run record at two positions: 26 at shortstop (1999) and 41 at third base (2000).

PAT BURRELL, 24

Like many young sluggers, Philadelphia's Pat Burrell strikes out a lot — a whopping 139 times in 408 at-bats during his rookie season in 2000.

But the Phillies don't seem to mind. The top overall pick in the 1998 draft drives the ball effectively to all fields and the club is willing to wait for him to develop better plate discipline. For now, he remains vulnerable to high fastballs and breaking pitches thrown low and outside.

Burrell thrives against left-handers and can go to the opposite field against righties. He belted 18 home runs last season, while tallying a .460 slugging percentage, leading all NL rookies in both categories. As far as strikeouts, he doesn't apologize for his approach.

"I'm not afraid to strike out," he says. "Every time I hit the ball, I want it to have a chance of getting out of the park or at least going for a double. I'm trying to drive the ball every time I'm up there."

Burrell's power has long been compared with that of baseball's top sluggers, including Mark McGwire. Known as "Pat the Bat" at the University of Miami, he showed good plate discipline in the Minors and the Phillies believe that will begin to show soon.

"He's starting to learn the league a little more," says teammate Bobby Abreu. "Once he's able to make adjustments and put it all together, he's going to be awesome."

Power Fact: Despite playing in only 111 games in 2000, Burrell led NL rookies with 18 homers, including two grand slams.



JERMAINE DYE, 27

Not long after Jermaine Dye joined the Royals from Atlanta via trade in 1997, Herk Robinson drew a comparison between Dye and Dave Winfield.

Robinson, the Royals' general manager at the time, seemed to be placing unrealistic expectations on Dye, even if the outfielder possessed the same frame and throwing arm as Winfield, who was elected into the Hall of Fame in 2001.

"They're both the same size, with quick bats," says Royals teammate Mike Sweeney. "I think it's a valid comparison."

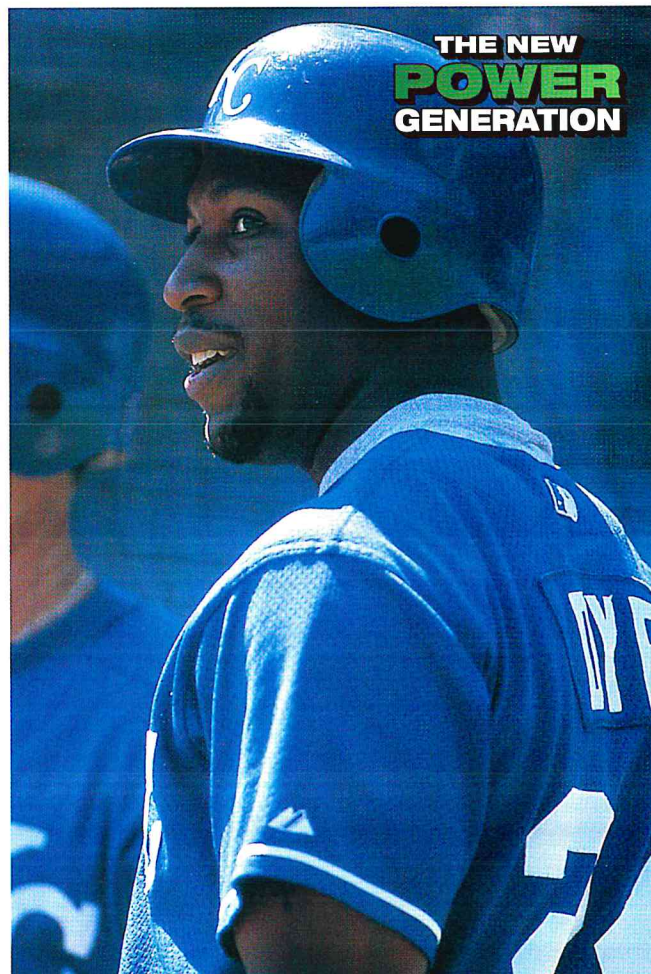
The Braves didn't think Dye would amount to anything more than a 15 or 20-homer platoon player. These days, Dye shows Winfield-like power. Despite his big strike zone (he's 6-foot-5), Dye adjusts well at the plate, hitting lefties and right-handers equally well and demonstrates power to all fields.

Dye, who grew up in the San Francisco area admiring Chili Davis, does not spend a whole lot of time dissecting his success. Even when he hit 11 homers in April of last season, he didn't focus on the reasons behind the power surge.

"You look for the ball and you hit the ball," he says. "It's really that simple."

Manager Tony Muser says Dye's strength is that he still views himself as a line-drive hitter. "He possesses the power to hit home runs, but he's more concerned about being a complete hitter," Muser says. "He's working toward becoming a tougher two-strike out and having better plate coverage. He could increase his home run total, but it's more important to him to be a more complete offensive player."

Power Fact: When Dye was voted a starter in the All-Star Game and awarded a Gold Glove in 2000, it marked the first time a Royal received either honor in more than a decade.



TROY GLAUS, 24

Mo Vaughn refers to Glaus as "the next Mike Schmidt," and it's hard not to draw such a parallel after a 2000 season in which the Angels' third baseman led the American League with 47 home runs.

No third baseman hit more career homers than Schmidt, although Glaus has shown he can be a similar force offensively, crushing fastballs and dominating left-handers. His quick development lessened the loss of Jim Edmonds, and he looks like he'll join Darin Erstad as a cornerstone of the Angels' future.

Glaus is still developing the ability to use the whole field. While he struck out 163 times in 2000, his second full season, he has shown patience at the plate, drawing 112 walks. As a result, he's able to work the count for a pitch he can drive.

Like many young fastball hitters, Glaus remains vulnerable to breaking pitches, but is quickly picking up trends as he faces pitchers for the third season.

"Just seeing pitchers for the third or fourth time makes a big difference," Glaus says. "I'm now able to make adjustments and react more quickly."

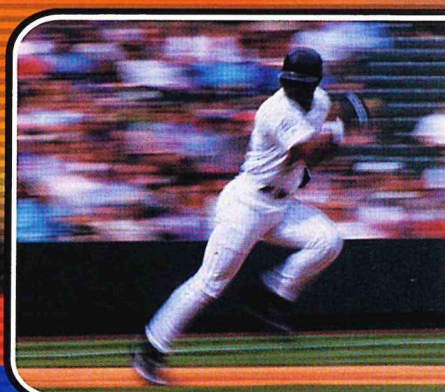
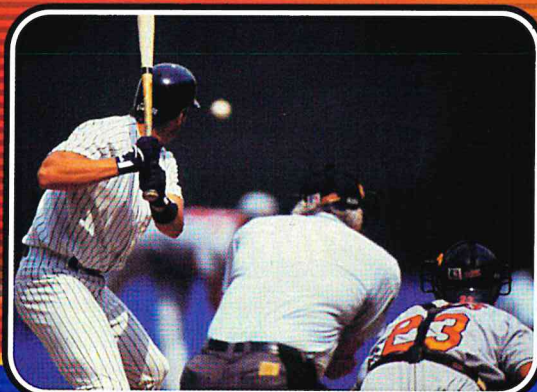
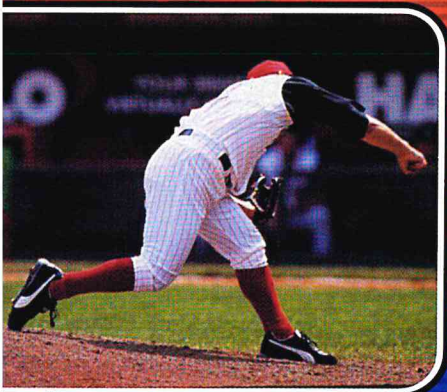
"He's shown a lot of discipline at the plate at a very early age," says Angels Manager Mike Scioscia. "Most at-bats, he waits long enough to get a good pitch to hit."

Power Fact: In 2000, Glaus became the first third baseman to lead the AL in homers since Graig Nettles hit 32 for the Yankees in 1976.

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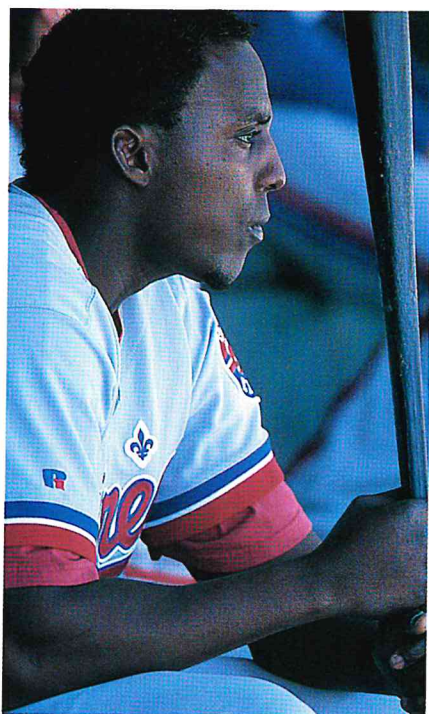
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VLADIMIR GUERRERO, 25

With a lanky frame, Guerrero is not your typical power hitter. Then again, there's nothing typical about the Montreal outfielder.

He's a power hitter who seems to swing at everything, but somehow does not rack up strikeouts. Since he can drive pitches that most hitters can't reach, he tends to swing at everything. "No one has better plate coverage," says Arizona's Curt Schilling.

With power to all fields, Guerrero hits the ball as hard as anyone in the Majors and his home run numbers have risen in each of his first full three seasons. Even though he's not choosy at the plate, he still led the Majors in 2000 with 23 intentional walks.

Montreal General Manager Jim Beattie, a former pitcher himself, sums up the apparent contradiction of Guerrero this way: "He's tough to unintentionally intentionally walk."

Because he's still learning English and plays off the national radar screen in Montreal, Guerrero's exploits continue to go somewhat unnoticed.

Guerrero was perhaps the one player unfazed at the prospect of umpires calling the high strike this season. "I'm a free swinger," he says. "They can put the strike zone wherever — on third base, in left field. It doesn't matter to me."

Power Fact: Guerrero is one of just four players to hit .300 with 30 home runs and 100 RBI in three consecutive seasons before the age of 25. Hall of Famers Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Jimmie Foxx are the others.

**THE NEW
POWER
GENERATION**

TODD HELTON, 27

When the Rockies drafted Helton out of the University of Tennessee, many compared him to Mark Grace. It was a compliment to Helton's ability to lash doubles into the gap, along with his defensive ability, but also a nice way of saying that he didn't have the power stroke of most first basemen.

Don Baylor, the Rockies' manager at the time, told the club's Minor League coaches not to alter the swing many have likened to that of Don Mattingly. Power would develop naturally, if only because Helton soon would play in Denver.

Helton still remains as pure a hitter as anyone in baseball — "The best I've seen since George Brett," says Braves Manager Bobby Cox — and Helton's 59 doubles in 2000 were the most by anyone since 1936.

But he's learned to turn on the ball, belting 25 homers in 1998, 35 in '99 and then 42 last season. While it's easy to assume that he hit the weights harder, he actually altered his conditioning program after the 1999 season to place more emphasis on flexibility than bulk.

"My upper body had gotten so tight that my swing was tight and I got off to slow starts," Helton says. "With this program, I'm a lot more flexible."

His left-handed stroke emphasizes the weight shift from the back foot to the front foot at the point of impact, much like that of Brett. "He's so smooth," Cox says. "Every swing is good."

Power Fact: As he chased .400 in 2000, Helton's power went somewhat unnoticed. He homered seven times in Colorado's last 11 games.



RICHARD HIDALGO, 26



Hidalgo surprised many people — including himself — in 2000 when he hit 44 home runs. "I worked hard, but I don't know if I would have expected my numbers to have been that good last year," he says.

His performance came as no surprise to the Astros, who had watched him transform from a light-hitting, 16-year-old that weighed 175 pounds when he signed with the club in 1991, into a solid, 200-pounder with an eye at the plate nearly as good as that of teammate Jeff Bagwell.

"He pays attention to the game more than most young players," says teammate Craig Biggio. "He has put a lot of work into it. I can't say I'm surprised by anything he does."

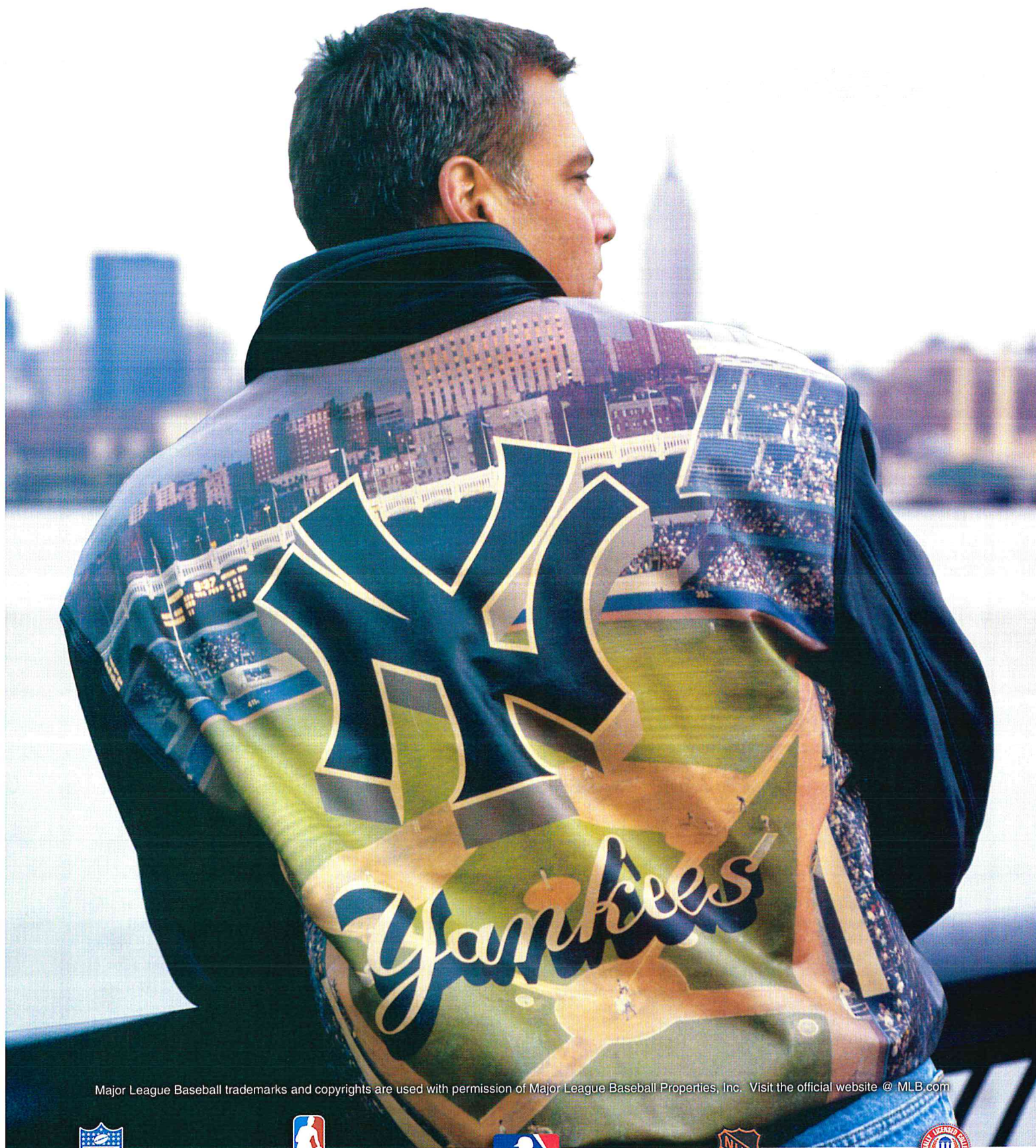
"He acts like a veteran," Bagwell says. "He just goes about his business and keeps getting better and better."

Hidalgo walked just 56 times in 558 at-bats in 2000, an extraordinary ratio for a young slugger, especially during an era in which no one worries about strikeouts. He saw nearly the same number of pitches per at-bat (3.88) as Bagwell (3.91).

"He kind of sneaked up on people," says Atlanta's Tom Glavine. "He's no longer the kind of guy you can get out repeatedly the same way."

Hidalgo didn't sneak up on the Astros, who protected him in the expansion draft in 1997 over Bobby Abreu. Says General Manager Gerry Hunsicker, "Richard has no weaknesses."

Power Fact: Hidalgo is just the third native of Venezuela to hit 40 home runs, joining Andres Galarraga and Tony Armas.



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ALEX RODRIGUEZ, 25

The man widely considered baseball's top all-around player sometimes is overlooked for his power. With 200 home runs before his 26th birthday, including 41 while playing at cavernous Safeco Field in his last season in Seattle, he ranks among the top young sluggers of all time.

He has always had power to all fields, but has demonstrated more strength to right field in recent years. He's also shown increased patience at the plate, nearly doubling his walks from 1999 to 2000.

Pitchers have struggled to find a formula that works against Rodriguez, who effectively uses his long arms to drive outside pitches. But it's that same lanky 6'3" frame that makes him relatively vulnerable to inside pitches.

THE NEW POWER GENERATION

"You have to come inside," says Minnesota's Brad Radke. "But since he can adjust, you have to go away with the off-speed pitch. But he can hit a ball a foot outside."

Says Devil Rays catcher John Flaherty, "His plate coverage makes him a tough out. You don't want to nibble anywhere near the outside corner because he can hammer it over the right-field wall."

If he hits 25 homers this season, Rodriguez would move into third place all time among shortstops. But he's still one of the game's hardest workers, tinkering with his swing each offseason. "There are always things you can do better," Rodriguez says.

Power Fact: Rodriguez holds the AL record for homers in a season by a shortstop with 42 — which he accomplished in both 1998 and 1999.



MIKE SWEENEY, 27

Mike Sweeney seems like the last guy to become a perennial 30-homer threat. It was just two years ago that he was a third-string catcher with little pop.

But after hitting 29 homers in 2000 to go along with a Royals-record 144 RBI, he's become a legitimate offensive force. He's transformed from an aggressive, first-ball hitter into one that remains patient and drives the ball to all parts of the park.

Sweeney insists that he's still not a power hitter, but when he's able to turn on a pitch and extend his arms, he can bomb with the strongest of his fellow first basemen.

"I still think of myself as more of a line drive, doubles kind of hitter," says Sweeney, who never hit more than 18 homers in seven Minor League seasons. "I've just been able to become more patient at the plate. The deeper you can get in the count, the more pitches you're going to see and the better chance you have of a pitcher making a mistake."

Sweeney will still bite on a high fastball, but he's developed a better eye at the plate. He'll become more aggressive when ahead in the count, looking to drive the ball, but he'll also shorten his swing in order to make contact when behind. He whiffed just 67 times in 618 at-bats in 2000.

"He doesn't give up many at-bats," says teammate Roberto Hernandez, who faced him while with Tampa Bay. "You can make the perfect pitch and he's still able to make adjustments."

Power Fact: In 2000, Sweeney became the first AL player to hit over .330 with 200 hits and 140 RBI since Al Rosen in '53 with Cleveland.



PRESTON WILSON, 26



It speaks volumes about Preston Wilson that the Marlins didn't worry last season as he approached Bobby Bonds' single-season strikeout record.

Perhaps more surprisingly is that more sluggers don't make a run at 189 strikeouts. Wilson, who whiffed 187 times in 2000, seems to be no different than young sluggers of the '80s that struggled to make contact while they adjusted to the Majors.

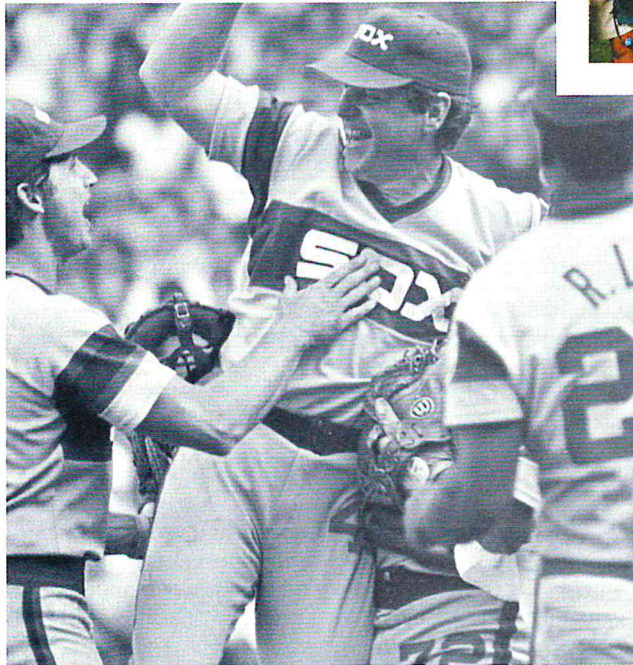
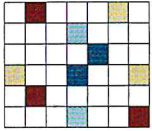
"You look at any power hitter early in his career and he's going to strike out a lot," Wilson says. "I'm no different. Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa — they have both struck out more than 100 times in their careers."

Wilson has developed more discipline at the plate. He's gotten better at laying off high fastballs and no longer tries to pull everything, taking advantage of his opposite-field power. "I always want to drive in a run and sometimes that means I go out of the strike zone. I'm aggressive and I'm not sure that I'll ever become a work-the-count-in-every-at-bat kind of hitter."

Which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Wilson hit .411 in 2000 when putting the first pitch in play, and he has become a top offensive producer. Says former Manager John Boles, "I wouldn't be surprised to see him become a 40-40 player."

Power Fact: The Marlins went 23-6 in games in which Wilson homered in 2000. ♦

Pete Williams is a contributing writer for USA Today Baseball Weekly and Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal.



It's rare enough to witness one great baseball achievement in a single calendar day, but these players turned in extraordinary performances in pairs. Clockwise from top left: On May 1, 1991, Rickey Henderson celebrated his stolen base record and Nolan Ryan threw the seventh no-hitter of his career. On August 4, 1985, Rod Carew reached the 3,000-hit milestone and Tom Seaver won No. 300.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ZAGARIS; ASSOCIATED PRESS; PILLING/MLB PHOTOS; © BETTMANN/CORBIS

What

Sometimes great moments in
baseball history come in pairs.

A

Day

WHEN THE WEATHER was just right, making it a perfect day for baseball, Ernie Banks used to say, "Let's play two." If just one of those games could showcase a historic baseball moment, fans would go home more than satisfied. A few times during a baseball season, a player accomplishes such an impressive feat that the headlines belong to him alone. When Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris's single-season home run record, it was the day's — and the year's — biggest sports moment. The same was true when Hank Aaron

became baseball's all-time career home run leader, and when Don Larsen pitched a perfect game in the World Series. But go through baseball's storied history and you'll find, rare though they are, some calendar days when two of the game's heroes both earned the spotlight.

■ MAY 1, 1991

Oakland's Rickey Henderson, arguably the greatest leadoff hitter in baseball history, stood poised to become the game's all-time stolen

By Mike Barber

What A Day



Nine years after taking California and the country by storm as a rookie who touched off Fernando-mania, Valenzuela had his best game as a professional.



June 29, 1990: After watching Oakland's Dave Stewart toss a no-hitter, Fernando Valenzuela told his Los Angeles teammates that he would accomplish the same feat when he pitched that night — and he did.

base leader. Henderson's A's were squaring off against one of his former teams, the New York Yankees. Henderson took a lead off of second, just one base shy of breaking Lou Brock's record of 938 career stolen bases. As he had attempted to do more than 1,000 times before, Henderson took off midway through the pitcher's wind-up, sprinted down the basepath and dove headfirst into third base. His hands reached out and grabbed the bag ahead of catcher Matt Nokes's throw. Henderson lifted the base out of the dirt and raised it over his head in celebration.

On the same night, Nolan Ryan achieved dominance over the Toronto Blue Jays. By the time the game wound its way into the seventh inning, it became apparent that Ryan was once again on the verge of greatness. Six times previously in his career, Ryan had thrown nine innings without allowing an opponent to get a hit. And on this night, he accomplished the feat for the seventh and final time in his Hall of Fame career. Ryan, at 44 years of age and battling an aching back, struck out 16 Blue Jays and missed a perfect game by two full-count walks. Against the "Ryan Express," Toronto hit only four balls out of the infield. By the time Roberto Alomar strolled to the plate with two outs in the ninth inning, the Arlington crowd was in a raucous

frenzy. Appropriately, Ryan blew a 93-mph fastball past a swinging Alomar to cap off the moment.

■ JUNE 29, 1990

In a year that boasted a record nine no-hitters, Oakland's Dave Stewart and Los Angeles's Fernando Valenzuela shared the stage on this day, each going nine innings without yielding a hit. Stewart took the mound first, at Sky-Dome against the Blue Jays. Things didn't start particularly well for the Oakland hurler, as he walked the first two batters he faced. But after that, Stewart took control. He set down the next 25 hitters before allowing a walk with two outs in the ninth. But he induced a pop fly to center off the bat of Tony Fernandez to end the game and put his gem in the record books.

Meanwhile, Valenzuela's L.A. teammates watched the game in the Dodgers' clubhouse and reported the outcome to the pitcher, who was about to start against the Cardinals that night.

Valenzuela told them, "You guys just watched one on TV. Tonight you'll see one in person." Valenzuela's teammates remember him joking about matching Stewart's accomplishment before he took the mound. As it turned out, he wasn't joking at all.

Valenzuela, who had lost three of his previous six starts, shut down the Cardinals. In the ninth inning, Valenzuela struck out Vince Coleman to get the first out. He walked Willie McGee, but then got Pedro Guerrero to ground into a game-ending double play. Nine years after taking California and the country by storm as a rookie who touched off Fernando-mania, Valenzuela had his best game as a professional.

And for the first time in baseball's modern era, two pitchers in two separate games, tossed no-hitters on the same day.

■ AUGUST 4, 1985

In April of 1967, Tom Seaver won his first game as a big league pitcher. Just over a week later, Rod Carew recorded his first Major League hit. Both went on to win Rookie of the Year honors in their respective leagues that season. But the two baseball legends were linked together forever 18 years later.

Seaver, now a veteran starter for the Chicago White Sox, took the mound at Yankee Stadium with 299 career victories under his belt.

There was a festive atmosphere at the "House that Ruth Built" in honor of Phil Rizzuto Day. But it was the performance of 40-year-old "Tom Terrific" that stole the show. Seaver, who had made a name for himself pitching across town for the New York Mets, pitched the Sox to a 4-1 victory in which he allowed only six hits. With the win, Seaver became the 17th pitcher in Major League history to reach 300 career victories.

Meanwhile, across the country, the Angels' Carew took the field against his former team, the Minnesota Twins.



BIG B-DAY

Besides being longtime powerful All-Star first basemen, Frank Thomas (left) and Jeff Bagwell have some other things in common. Both stars were born on May 27, 1968. To go a step further, 26 years later, Chicago's Thomas and Houston's Bagwell were both named their respective league MVPs.



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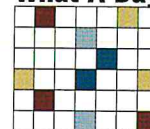
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Statistics are great.
But it's really all about memories.

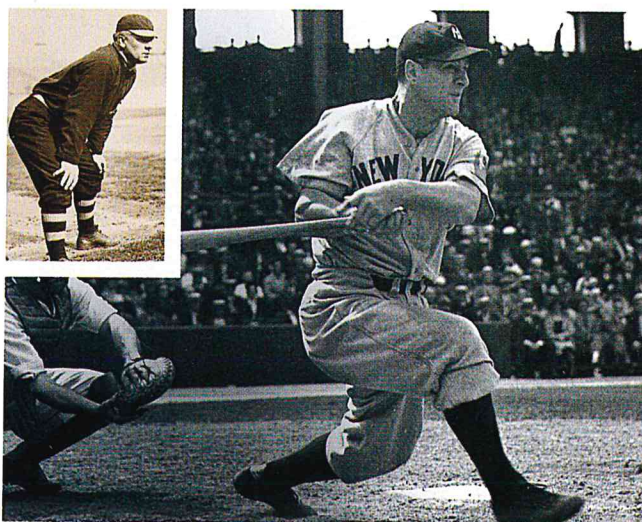


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"If Paul had told me he was gonna pitch a no-hitter, I'd of thrown one, too." — Dizzy Dean after watching his brother Paul upstage his own three-hit performance.



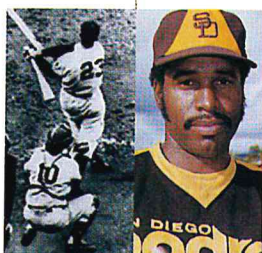
From left: Brothers Paul (left) and Dizzy Dean combined for 18 innings and only three hits on Sept. 21, 1934. Manager John McGraw, who retired, and Lou Gehrig, who hit four homers, both made headlines on June 3, 1932.

Carew, whose quest for 3,000 hits had been sidetracked by injuries in the previous two years, stepped into the batter's box in the third inning. A night earlier, a great play by shortstop Ron Washington had kept him stuck at 2,999. But on this trip to the plate, the 18-time All-Star would not be denied. In typical Carew-fashion, the left-handed slap-hitter knocked a pitch from Minnesota's Frank Viola to left field for a looping single, making him the 16th player ever to reach 3,000. The 39-year-old Panama native reached first and tipped his batting helmet to the fans at Anaheim Stadium. He and Manager Gene Mauch pulled the first base bag from its moorings and Carew held it up to the crowd.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1934

A pair of Deans made sure that hits were hard to come by for the Brooklyn Dodgers on this day. The Gas House Gang Cardinals were poised for a run at a World Series title in 1934 when Paul Dean joined his famous brother, Dizzy, in the St. Louis rotation. The move led Dizzy to predict that he

and his younger brother would combine for 45 wins by the time the year was over. During the September pennant drive, the Cardinals squared off against Brooklyn in a doubleheader. In the first game, Dizzy took a no-hitter into the eighth inning. He finished allowing no runs on three hits and tossing a complete game. Hours later, Paul, whom sportswriters had dubbed "Daffy," threw a no-hitter in the second game. Afterward, the ever-humble Dizzy remarked, "If Paul had told me he was gonna pitch a no-hitter, I'd of thrown one too." And when the season was over, the Dean boys had combined for 49 victories, proving Dizzy's boastful prediction prophetic.



50 YEARS STRONG

On Oct. 3, 1951, Bobby Thomson hit his famous "Shot Heard 'Round the World," the home run that won the National League pennant for the Giants (left). On that same day, future slugger Dave Winfield was born in St. Paul, Minn. In 2001, Winfield was elected to the Hall of Fame, just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Thomson home run.

JUNE 3, 1932

The Yankees' first baseman, Lou Gehrig, hit four home runs in one game, becoming the first AL player ever to do so. He narrowly missed a fifth dinger as the Yankees won a 20-13 slugfest against the Athletics. In that same game, Tony Lazzeri hit for the cycle. But an iron manager overshadowed Lazzeri and Gehrig.

Later that day, Giants Hall of Fame Manager John McGraw stepped down as the team's skipper. He called first baseman Bill Terry into his office and turned the managing duties over to his star player. During his career, McGraw was famous for his spats with umpires and was known to call pitches from the dugout. His managerial style was aggressive and abrasive but as his career was winding down, he saw his players rebel against him. That season the team had dropped to eighth place. For a man who had won 2,763 games and 11 pennants in 33 years as a manager, it was time to call it a career. In a fitting tribute, McGraw took the field one final time a year later, managing the National League in the inaugural All-Star Game.

Every ballgame that is played carries with it the opportunity to witness greatness — a career milestone or a single-game record, an improbable first or an emotional last.

Any one of these accomplishments could easily be the highlight of a player's career and a cherished memory for the fans that witnessed it. For two such events to come together on the same date makes for a truly perfect day for baseball. ♦

Mike Barber is a freelance writer and has been a project editorial assistant for Major League Baseball.



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BY BERT SUGAR

THE RECORD NOOKS

There's nothing minor about these bush league feats.



IN WHAT MAY BE THE GREATEST CASE of free association since Professor Rohrshack toppled over his inkwell, almost every fully-credentialed baseball fan believes that any baseball statistic can be found somewhere in *Total Baseball* and *The Macmillan Baseball Encyclopedia* — those two oversized tomes jammed to the Plimsol line with all things baseball.

Further believing that the best place to hide a needle is not so much in a haystack but in amongst a pile of other needles, they will spend untold hours poring over the balanced columns and unassailable straight-angled figures contained therein in search of baseball's most precious commodity — its records.

Ah, but as William Shakespeare once wrote, "There lies the rub." Because those two tomes are dedicated only to *Major League Baseball*, almost all of baseball's records must be found elsewhere, in an area as overlooked as Whistler's father: in the record nooks of *Minor League Baseball*.

So-called baseball trivots may claim they're but Minor League records. However, Minor League though they may be, they are hardly minor in accomplishment.

And to prove their worth and validity, just belly up to the bar at your favorite watering hole and challenge any and all within earshot who

may pride themselves on their knowledge of baseballistics to a quick pop quiz. Ask them to name the season record-holders for most home runs, runs batted in and runs scored. And, almost to a fan, their answers will come forth: Mark McGwire, 70; Hack Wilson 191; and Babe Ruth, 177.

That's fine as far as it goes. But it doesn't go far enough, not if you consider *baseball's* all-time records — Minor League records included. Then, you can answer them with Joe Bauman, 72 (with Roswell, N.M. of the Longhorn League in 1954); Bob Crues, 254 (with Amarillo of the

Think 56 games is amazing? Joe DiMaggio (above) put together a 61-game hitting streak with the San Francisco Seals.

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and precision.

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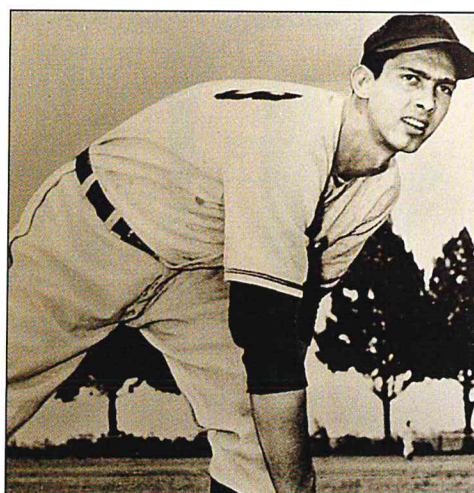
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Clockwise from left: Minor League record-holders Nig Clarke, Joe Bauman, Ron Necciai, Tony Lazzeri and Bob Crues. Clarke blasted eight homers in one game, Necciai fanned 27 batters in a nine-inning game, and Lazzeri drove in 202 runs during the 1925 season.

West Texas-New Mexico League in 1948); and Tony Lazzeri, 202 (with Salt Lake City of the Pacific Coast League in 1925).

In almost every case, the higher calculus in all things that begin with "most" belongs to those in the Minor Leagues. Even that Everest of all records, the one nobody thinks will ever be broken — Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak — was bettered in the Minors. Eight years before, the same Joe D., then an 18-year-old phenom with the San Francisco Seals, achieved what *The Reach Baseball Guide* called "nation-wide attention" by putting together a hitting streak of 61 straight games. But even that wasn't the record: For that you have to go back to 1919 when a player named Joe Wilhoit, playing with Wichita in the Class A Western League, hit in 69 consecutive games.

Need other examples? Well, the Major League record for most home runs in a game is four, shared, at present count, by 12 players. But, as Jimmy Durante used to say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet," especially when you consider that a player named Nig Clarke smote, frescoed and (insert your own concussive verb here) eight — that's right, *eight* — home runs in Corsicana's 51-3 blowout of Texarkana, a game in which one observer commented, "On that day, giving up a double was a moral victory."

And, while the subject is home runs, Bob Seeds, playing for the Newark Bears of the International League in 1938,

THE RECORD NOOKS

homered seven times in eight at-bats over a two-game span, an effort which dwarfs any such two-game Major League record.

But those established in pitching categories are equally noteworthy. Take the one-game strikeout record, for example. One of the games that *The Sporting News* included in its *Baseball's 50 Greatest Games* book was Roger Clemens' 20-strikeout game against Seattle. But if *The Sporting News* had issued the complete history of baseball, moroccan-bound, it would have had to include the game pitched by Ron Necciai of the Appalachian League's Bristol Twins on May 5, 1952, when the opposing batters on the Welch Miners had about as much chance of hitting him as a down-on-his-luck pyromaniac after sneezing on his last match — 27 of them going down on strikes in Necciai's nine-inning, no-hit performance.

And fielding? How about an unassisted triple play by an outfielder? That rarer-than-rare performance occurred on July 19, 1911, when center fielder Walter Carlisle of Vernon of the Pacific Coast League pulled off what one Los Angeles paper called "the greatest play in base ball history." According to written accounts, with two men on and no outs, a player with the Los Angeles team hit a screaming line drive to center field, one which looked as if it were sure to drop in, and both men

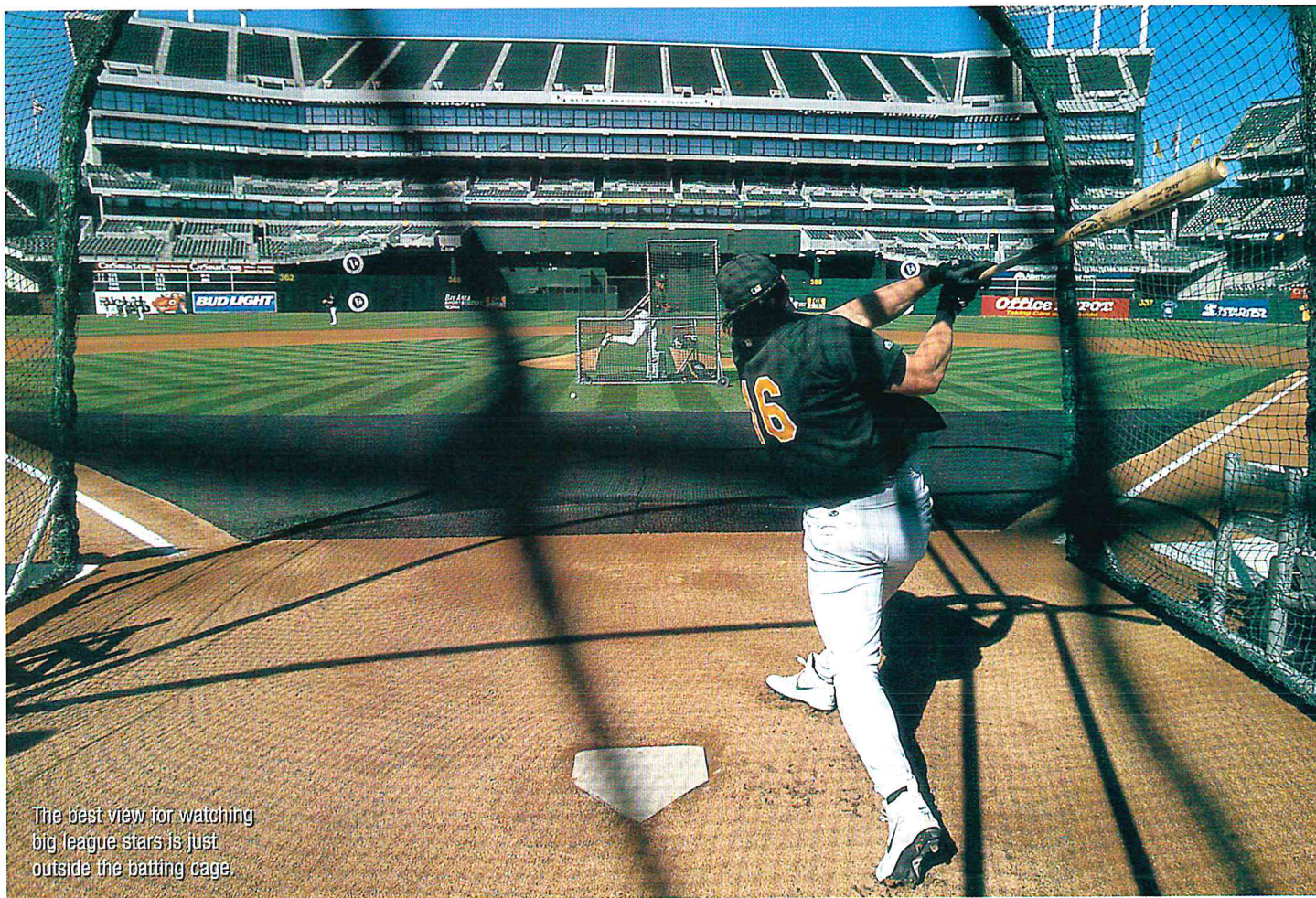
took off. So, too, did Carlisle who, with collarbone buffeted against the wind, raced in and dove for the ball, catching it bare inches from the ground. Then, after taking two or three somersaults (the account was not quite sure), Carlisle came to his feet and raced to second to double up the bemused baserunner and continued on to first to complete the triple play.

We could go on and on ... citing the longest no-hitter in baseball history, a 17-inning gem thrown by Fred Toney of the Winchester Hustlers of the Blue Grass League back in 1909 (and, for those figure filberts to whom the name is familiar, Toney was one-half of the only double no-hitter in Major League history) ... or the longest game in baseball history, a 33-inning marathon between the Pawtucket Red Sox and Rochester Red Wings which began on April 18, 1981, and ended, after being suspended in the wee hours of the morning, on June 23 ... or any one of a hundred other records set by Minor League batters, pitchers, teams, you name it ... every one a jewel in a separate setting.

But I think we've made our point. So the next time you want to look up a record, don't just pull out a book containing merely *Major League* records — pull up the entire sport to study its roots. And its records. ♦

Bert Sugar is a columnist for Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal and is currently writing a book about the 1978 Yankees-Red Sox one-game playoff.

FRONT ROW



The best view for watching big league stars is just outside the batting cage.

WHO SAYS BIG LEAGUERS CAN'T BE FANS?

OW SEATS

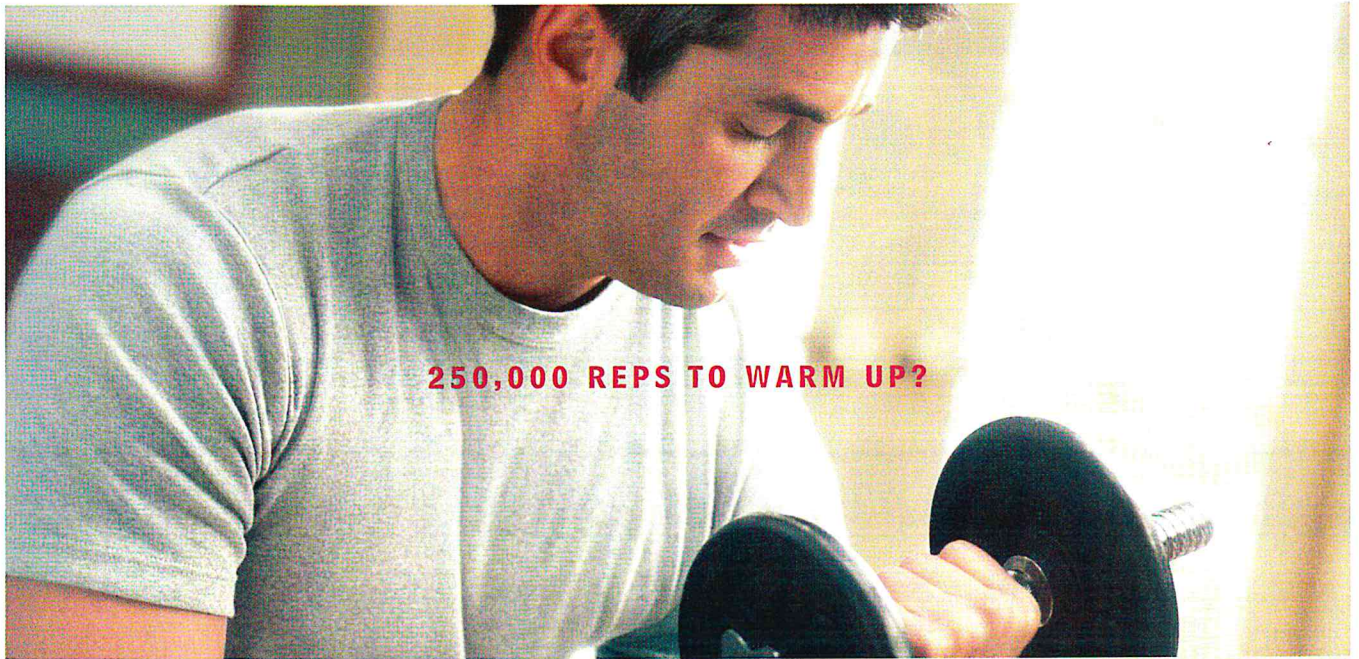


WHEN GAME TIME COMES, IT'S ALL ABOUT FOCUS. PINPOINT THE GOAL AT HAND AND ATTACK IT WITH UNRELENTING PRESSURE, WHETHER IT'S WINNING AN INTENSE SERIES OR CLIMBING OUT OF AN ICY SLUMP. // BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PLAYERS CAN PUT ASIDE THEIR RIVALRIES ON THE FIELD, FORGET ABOUT THE JERSEY THEY WEAR, AND TAKE A MOMENT TO JUST BREATHE BASEBALL — TO LET THEIR JAW DROP, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A SECOND, AND MARVEL AT THE PLAYERS AROUND THEM. BACK TO THE DAYS OF COLLECTING CARDS AND TACKING UP POSTERS OF THEIR FAVORITE PLAYERS, TODAY'S MAJOR LEAGUERS CAN VISUALIZE THEMSELVES IN THE SEATS OF THE STADIUM IN WHICH THEY PLAY. THEY APPRECIATE THEIR FAVORITE PLAYERS, BECAUSE, SAYS THE MARINERS' JAY BUHNER, "WE'RE FANS, TOO." // THEY MAY GET PAID TO PLAY THIS GAME EVERY DAY, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THEY ARE FANS, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US, PAUSING TO WATCH A HIGHLIGHT OF MARK MCGWIRE CRUSHING A LONG HOME RUN, OR TO ADMIRE ANOTHER MASTERFUL GEM BY GREG MADDUX. EVERYONE HAS A FAVORITE PLAYER TO WATCH, AND MAJOR LEAGUERS ARE NO DIFFERENT. CHILDHOOD HEROES ASIDE, WHO DO PLAYERS MOST LIKE TO WATCH IN THE GAME TODAY? // "MCGWIRE," SAYS THE DODGERS' ERIC KARROS. "HE'S JUST HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE OTHER PLAYERS. THERE'S MAC, AND THEN THERE'S THE REST OF US. NO ONE CAN COMPARE TO HIM."

THEY APPRECIATE GREAT PLAYERS MORE THAN ANYONE.

Even with a swing toward flashy players who can turn fielding a short grounder into a glittery display of graceful athleticism, younger players are still looking up to well-established veterans. McGwire's presence both on and off the field has his peers in awe. "He's just so big," says A's third baseman Eric Chavez. The burly slugger started less than half the Cardinals' games last year and still put up numbers (32 homers) that many players, including Chavez, would kill to post in a season. "I love to watch McGwire," says the Blue Jays' Brad Fullmer. "Everyone wants to see a guy who can hit farther

than just about anyone who has ever played. I don't blame the fans for showing up two hours early to watch him launch balls in batting practice." His recent knee injuries have kept him from getting regular at-bats. But how many players in the league can create such a buzz as a pinch-hitter, the way he single-handedly turned pitchers' knees to jelly in last year's playoffs? "People come to watch home runs, and I'm just as big of a fan as anyone else," says the Brewers' Richie Sexon. "I love to see him hit home runs. It's awesome."

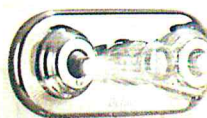


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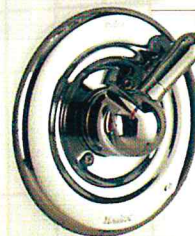


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FRONT ROW SEATS

One of the biggest McGwire fans is reigning AL MVP Jason Giambi. When McGwire played for the A's, he took Giambi under his wing. Giambi credits Mac with teaching him about everything from weightlifting to leadership, and now Giambi is beginning to see the respect around him that McGwire has enjoyed.

"The guy's a class act," teammate Barry Zito says of Giambi. "Not just on the field, but off the field. The way he handles himself, it's very classy. There are so many guys out there that have a famous name like he does, but no one handles it like he does." After Oakland captured the AL West title on the last day of the season last year, his teammates carried him off the field on their shoulders. Giambi loves the home run like McGwire, and he's got plenty of fans that love to watch him crush them.

But the draw of the homer isn't the only reason to watch baseball. A powerful pitcher can negate a powerful hitter and few do that better than the fiery Randy Johnson. "He is the most dominating pitcher there is," says Cleveland hurler Jaret Wright. The "Big Unit" delivers his pitches with a nasty snarl and in May mowed down 20 Cincinnati Reds to tie the Major League record for strikeouts in nine innings.

Diamondbacks third baseman Matt Williams says that he's amazed every time he watches Johnson step on the mound. "We're all students," says Williams. "We all appreciate the fact that it's difficult, so you can marvel at the things Randy does."

Johnson overpowers hitters with blazing velocity, but Braves pitcher Greg Maddux uses a different approach on his way to dominating hitters. The 35-year-old hurler picks apart the strike zone with uncanny precision and started out the 2001 season at an amazing pace, allowing only one run in his first three starts. He doesn't have Johnson's aura of invincibility just by looking at him, but the unassuming Maddux can destroy a team with his remarkable control.

"If I was a fan, I'd have no problem laying down money to watch Maddux," says Diamondbacks pitcher Brian Anderson. "When he pitches against us, I love to watch the way he goes about his work. He takes an 88-mph fastball and a few other pitches and just carves



With their remarkable record performances this season, it's no wonder that all eyes are on Randy Johnson and Barry Bonds.

"I LOVE WATCHING THE WAY VLADIMIR GUERRERO PLAYS. HE PLAYS WITH HIS HEART AND THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PLAY THIS GAME." — UGUETH URBINA



Mark McGwire has plenty of fans in the stands and in the dugout.

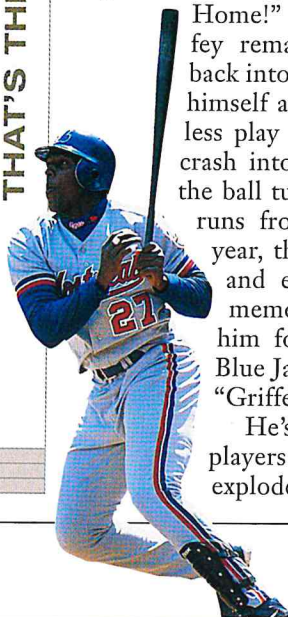
people up. It's nice to sit down and watch a guy that talented. He's not an overpowering guy, but he can make hitters — good hitters — look really stupid, like they don't belong in the league."

If Maddux is a veteran pitcher who can do it all, his counterpart offensively may be 36-year-old Barry Bonds. Although he's aging and fighting off nagging injuries, the Giants' star outfielder can still put on a show. After blasting his 500th homer in April, he went on a tear in May, belting nine in six games. He has put together a brilliant career, and even as an older player, finished second in the MVP voting last year.

"He's so exciting because he can beat you in so many ways," says Williams, who became a Bonds fan after playing with him for four years in San Francisco. Says Cleveland's Russell Branyan, "He's a great hitter, and that's just the beginning." Bonds' range of skills in the outfield has robbed many players of hits, but it's his ability to then turn around on offense and hit with an incredible ferocity that separates him from the field. "He can do everything," says Fullmer. "He can crush a home run, then go out and make a diving catch, and he's done it for a long time."

The prototype for the new-generation ballplayer may be one modeled after Bonds. Ken Griffey Jr. has that same capability of stamping his name on a game. When he arrived in his home city after leaving the Mariners, throngs of fans chanted "Welcome Home!" to their new superstar, and Griffey remains poised to vault Cincinnati back into contention. He made a name for himself as a rookie in 1989 with his fearless play in the outfield, where he would crash into the wall, then walk away with the ball tucked in his glove, stealing home runs from countless hitters. Since that year, the 11-time All-Star has left fans, and even his opponents, with many memorable highlights. After watching him for several years in the AL, the Blue Jays' Shannon Stewart says it best: "Griffey is the man."

He's only 31, but already there are players in the Majors who watched him explode on the fast track when they



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FRONT ROW SEATS

were young. "Griffey was my favorite player growing up, and he still is now," says Oakland's 25-year-old outfielder Terrence Long.

The spacious outfield gives players like Griffey and Bonds an immense stage to showcase their talents. But one of the biggest stars in the league, and certainly one of the most charismatic, works in the trenches behind the plate. Ivan Rodriguez led the All-Star balloting last year, but his season-ending thumb injury disappointed fans and the players around the league who enjoyed watching him not only overpower pitchers offensively, but take away a whole facet of the game with his extraordinary ability to eliminate base stealing from the game plan.

"He is the best at his position," says fellow Puerto Rican Carlos Delgado. Adds the White Sox's Magglio Ordonez, "He's the best player in the league. I like the way he hits, throws, even how he runs."

It's easy to see why Pudge is so exciting to watch. If a base runner dares to try stealing on him, Rodriguez quickly jumps up with his arm cocked, ready to throw in one motion. The Cardinals' Mike Matheny, who has a cannon for an arm himself, marvels at Pudge's rare skills as a catcher.

"He's so gifted with the things that he does behind the plate," Matheny says. "He has unbelievable God-given ability. I can't believe some of the things that he can do as a catcher."

His new teammate, Alex Rodriguez, is also capable of the unbelievable. Few players in the league match A-Rod's agility in the infield. And even though he has to now watch Alex from the opposite dugout, Seattle's Edgar Martinez still counts himself as one of A-Rod's

"GREG MADDUX IS NOT AN OVERPOWERING GUY, BUT HE CAN MAKE HITTERS — GOOD HITTERS — LOOK REALLY STUPID, LIKE THEY DON'T BELONG IN THE LEAGUE." — BRIAN ANDERSON



Cleveland's Roberto Alomar often goes parallel to get the job done.

biggest fans. He holds no ill-will toward the former Mariner, even giving him a friendly hello on the field during A-Rod's return to Seattle in April.

"Alex and Nomar (Garcia), they can do pretty much everything in the game — hit home runs, field and run, so the chances are pretty good that you'll see something spectacular," Martinez says.

Cleveland teammates Roberto Alomar and Omar Vizquel may be the best double-play duo in baseball — or at least the most exciting to watch, with Vizquel's bare-handed grabs and Alomar's athleticism. "They're amazing," says teammate Kenny Lofton. "Alomar can do it all, especially in the infield," says Cincinnati's Pokey Reese. "He hits for power, fields and steals bases." Adds Delgado, "Alomar can do so many things and beat you in so many different ways. It's just fun to watch."

Even though fans flock to players with unmatched talent, sometimes it's not the flash, the towering home run, or an unhittable fastball that makes a fan out of somebody. Baseball's a game after all, and the player that can put every ounce of passion he has into the task at hand, despite the grind of the long season, can be inspiring to watch.

The Angels' Darin Erstad plays with such focus and drive that even his own veteran teammates look up to him. Says Troy Percival about what has made him an Erstad fan, "Hustle. Pure intensity for nine innings. It's hard to find somebody who can play that way, and he's beyond most people being able to do that." Says pitcher Ugueth Urbina about his favorite player, "I love watching the way Vladimir Guerrero plays. He plays with his heart and that's the only way to play this game."

The fun of watching a player who enjoys himself on the field has never changed. It's why people loved watching Hall of Famers Babe Ruth, Willie Mays and Kirby Puckett. It's why Major Leaguers started playing when they were young, and it's why, even while focused on the long season, they can still be fans, too. ♦

Erin Whiteside is assistant editor for Major League Baseball Properties.

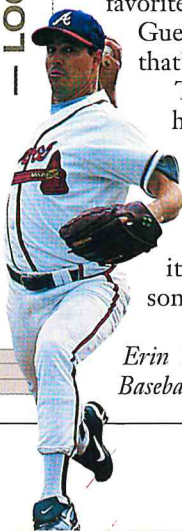
WHO'S WATCHING WHOM?

A sampling of various players around the league, and whom they love to watch.

Player:	A fan of:
Roberto Alomar	Alex Rodriguez
Brian Anderson	Greg Maddux
Russell Branyan	Barry Bonds
Eric Chavez	Mark McGwire
Carlos Delgado	Ivan Rodriguez
Andres Galarraga	Ken Griffey Jr.
Jason Giambi	Mark McGwire
Eric Karros	Mark McGwire
Billy Koch	Randy Johnson
Matt Mantei	Mark Grace
Edgar Martinez	Alex Rodriguez
Mike Matheny	Ivan Rodriguez
Alex Ochoa	Edgardo Alfonzo
Magglio Ordonez	Ivan Rodriguez
Troy Percival	Darin Erstad
Tim Salmon	Pedro Martinez
John Rocker	Randy Johnson
Shannon Stewart	Ken Griffey Jr.
Jim Thome	Mark McGwire
Ugueth Urbina	Vladimir Guerrero
Matt Williams	Randy Johnson
Barry Zito	Jason Giambi



Griffey ranks as a common player favorite.

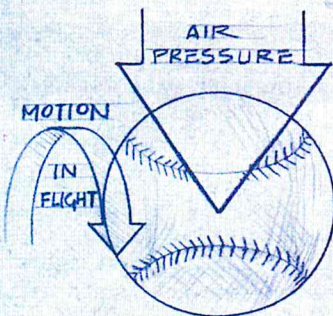


THE CURVEBALL

"UNCLE CHARLIE," "THE HOOK"

THE BREAK ON A CURVE
IS DOWN AND ACROSS
AT A 45-DEGREE ANGLE.

THE CURVE IS
THROWN WITH A
ROLLING OF THE
WRIST, LIKE
PULLING DOWN A
WINDOW SHADE.



THE SECOND AND THIRD FINGERS ARE
USUALLY PLACED TOGETHER ALONG
ONE OF THE LONG SEAMS.

GET A GRIP

IN THE SEARCH FOR THE UNHITTABLE PITCH,
HURLERS HAVE THROWN ANYTHING THAT WILL
CURVE, SINK, DROP OR RISE.

THE WAR BETWEEN PITCHERS AND HITTERS STARTED WHEN BASEBALL TOOK ITS FIRST BREATH — PERHAPS AS far back as the mid-1850s, when the sport began weaving its way into the fabric of American life. Then, as now, the battle was as simple as it was compelling.

The pitcher has always tried to dominate the hitter with velocity. Or, if he can't throw hard enough, he's made the ball curve, sink, drop or rise. The individual strategies have changed over time, but the urgency is as intense today as it was 100 years ago, probably even more so.

Why? Because hitters are bigger and stronger than ever before. They're weight lifters who swing lighter bats, generate more bat speed, and have the advantage of smaller ballparks and, until 2001, a tinier strike zone.

No wonder hurlers have spent entire careers searching for new weapons — the perfect pitch that can neutralize the endless advancements hitters have made. But is anything really unhittable?

Before 1920, the spitball was considered the gold standard of pitching. After it was outlawed and phased out by 1934, the curveball became the weapon of choice, followed by the slider in the late '50s and early '60s.

By the '70s, pitchers had unveiled the split-finger fastball, and most recently, in the '90s and into the new millennium, there's been a rebirth of the two-seam fastball, which used to be called a sinker. And let's not forget the knuckleball and screwball.

So is there anything new that a pitcher can try? Or has the universe of choices been exhausted after more than a century of experimentation? After all, there are only four directions a baseball can travel — up, down, left and right. And the ball's dimensions are finite, nine inches in circumference, weighing five ounces, and stitched 216 times.

Given those limitations, it's fair to assume that we've seen it all, although the Braves' Greg Maddux says, "Somehow, some way, there's still something we haven't figured out yet. Don't ask me what it is, but it's out there."

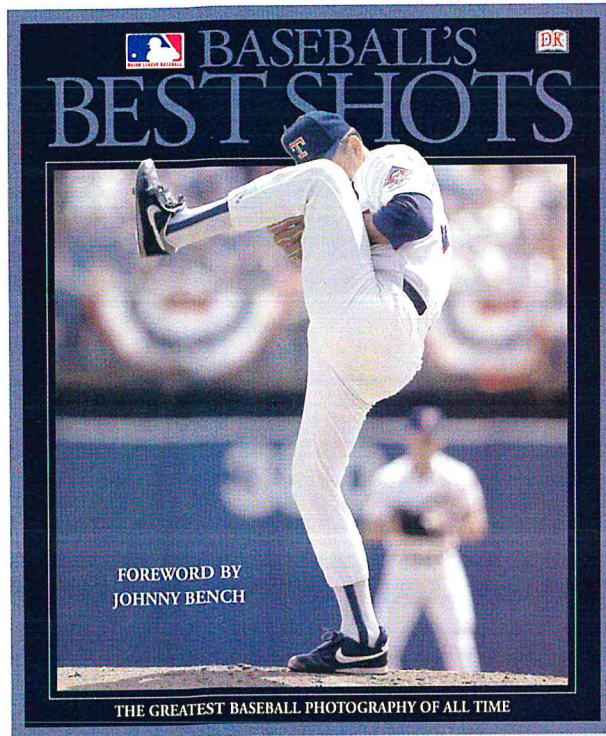
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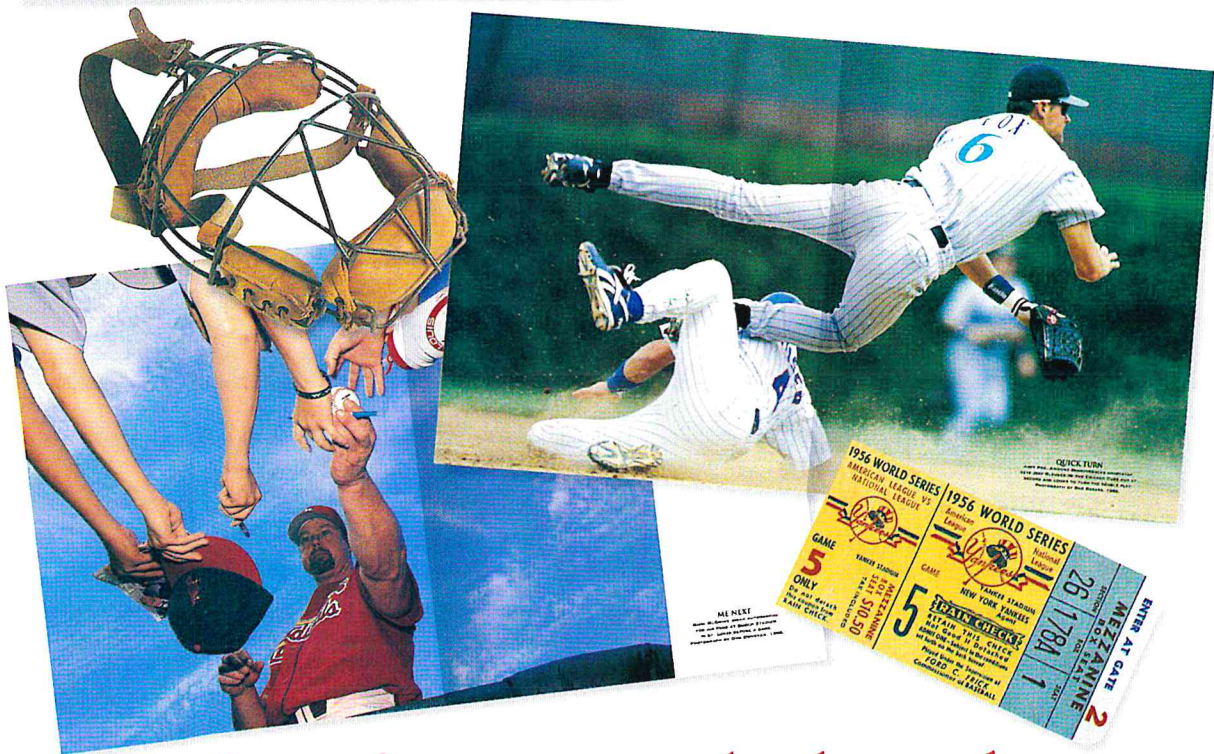
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GET A GRIP

THE SPITBALL

In a much simpler time, a pitcher's search for nirvana was literally at his fingertips, which is what he used to apply saliva on the ball. The other options were tobacco juice, dirt, or licorice, and even more radically, the baseball was legally cut, scraped and sandpapered.

All these tactics were designed to make the ball dance and wiggle — a culture of trickery which flourished between 1910 and 1920. During that time, eight pitchers won 30 or more games — a feat that's been equaled by just one American Leaguer in 71 years (Denny McLain in 1968) and no National Leaguer since Dizzy Dean in 1934.

One of the reasons that Cy Young, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson and Grover Cleveland Alexander, among others, were so hard to hit was because they were allowed to hurl a baseball that was darkened with foreign substances over the innings — literally making it hard to see.

In addition, umpires rarely substituted clean, new baseballs into action, which meant by game's end, the ball was dirty and misshapen, almost putty-like, making it a chore to see clearly and hit hard. No wonder the game changed so radically in 1920, when the spitball was outlawed — although, because of a grand-fathering clause which protected 17 pitchers, it wasn't entirely phased out until the Yankees' Burleigh Grimes threw his last spitter in 1934.

With a clean, more tightly wound baseball in their line of sight, hitters were at last on equal footing. And just like that, Babe Ruth made run scoring — and home-run swatting — fashionable. Americans fell in love with the power and the glory of the longball, watching those 400-foot blasts to the planets. Pitchers, however, were hardly pleased.

THE CURVE

Stripped of the spitter, they were forced to develop the curveball, which at the time was known as the "drop" pitch. It had been a weapon in the early part of the century, and the top hurlers began catching on.

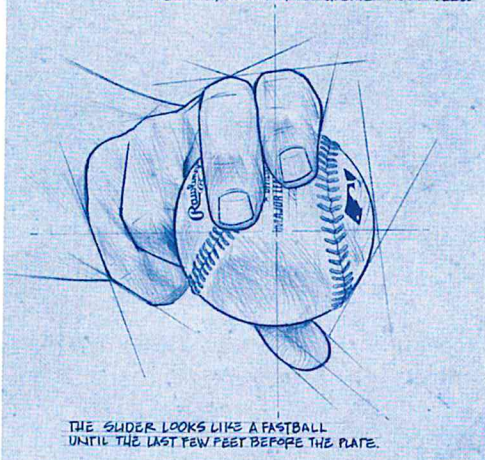
Indeed, the New York Giants' pitching staff was hugely successful in the 1922 World Series by throwing curveball after curveball at the Babe, of all people.

Until then, Ruth had little trouble handling the average pitcher's fastball, which in that era was estimated to be no more than 80 mph. But the curve ... well, that was a different poison altogether.

The great Yankee slugger batted only .118 as the Giants prevailed. Ruth managed to get just three balls out of the infield. And one of those was a routine fly. Giants Manager

THE SLIDER

THE SLIDER IS THROWN LIKE THE CURVE, BUT WITH ONLY A SLIGHT LAST-SECOND FLICK OF THE WRIST, ALLOWING FOR GREATER ARM SPEED.



THE SLIDER LOOKS LIKE A FASTBALL UNTIL THE LAST FEW FEET BEFORE THE PLATE.

John McGraw boasted to reporters that their pitchers had broken through the wall of Ruth's legend.

"We had the big monkey's number," McGraw said of the Babe. "Just pitch him low curves and slow stuff, and he falls all over himself."

Was it really that easy? Ruth was so disheartened by his poor performance in the '22 Fall Classic that he broke down in tears, promising the nation, "I'm going to break that home run record" in the years to come. He was right, of course, and the Bambino ultimately changed the way baseball was played.

Because of Ruth and the example that he set, big league hitters were no longer content just to make contact. They wanted to crush the ball, and strength became a hitter's best

friend. The best antidote for pitchers was — and still is — the well-placed fastball, delivered like a laser on one of the corners, preferably in excess of 90 mph.

As former knuckleballer Charlie Hough says, "There's still nothing harder for a hitter to hit than pure velocity. The fastball is still the most effective pitch in the game."

Indeed, successful hitting is all about comfort and timing. And nothing makes a hitter more uncomfortable than a blistering fastball — especially if it moves late and unpredictably. In fact, movement is just as critical as velocity, because as Tony Gwynn says, "When a pitcher forces you to change your eye level, if you're having to look up and down instead of just in and out, that makes your job a lot tougher."

That's why the curve has always been so popular — first, because it breaks in a huge arc, extending from the top to the bottom of the strike zone. And second, because it's a relatively easy pitch to master.

All it takes is a simple rolling of the wrist, and a pitcher can make the ball break in a downward motion. The difference in velocity between the fastball and curve is usually

enough to upset a hitter's timing — so effectively, in fact, that if a pitcher couldn't learn the curve, he at least applied the speed differential to the straight change-up.

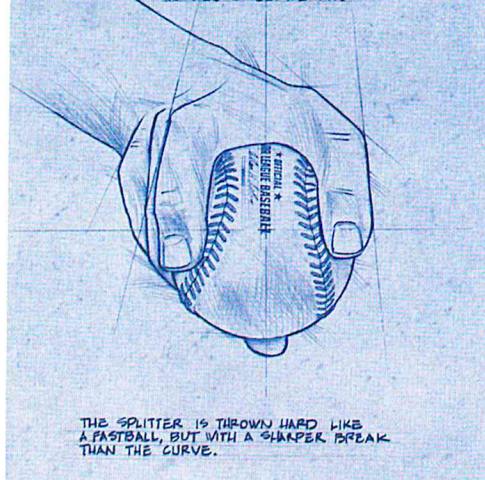
But by the 1940s and '50s, as DiMaggio and Mantle replaced Ruth and Gehrig, hitters began using lighter bats, which meant they could wait longer before committing to their swings. And that meant pitchers needed yet another weapon.

THE SLIDER

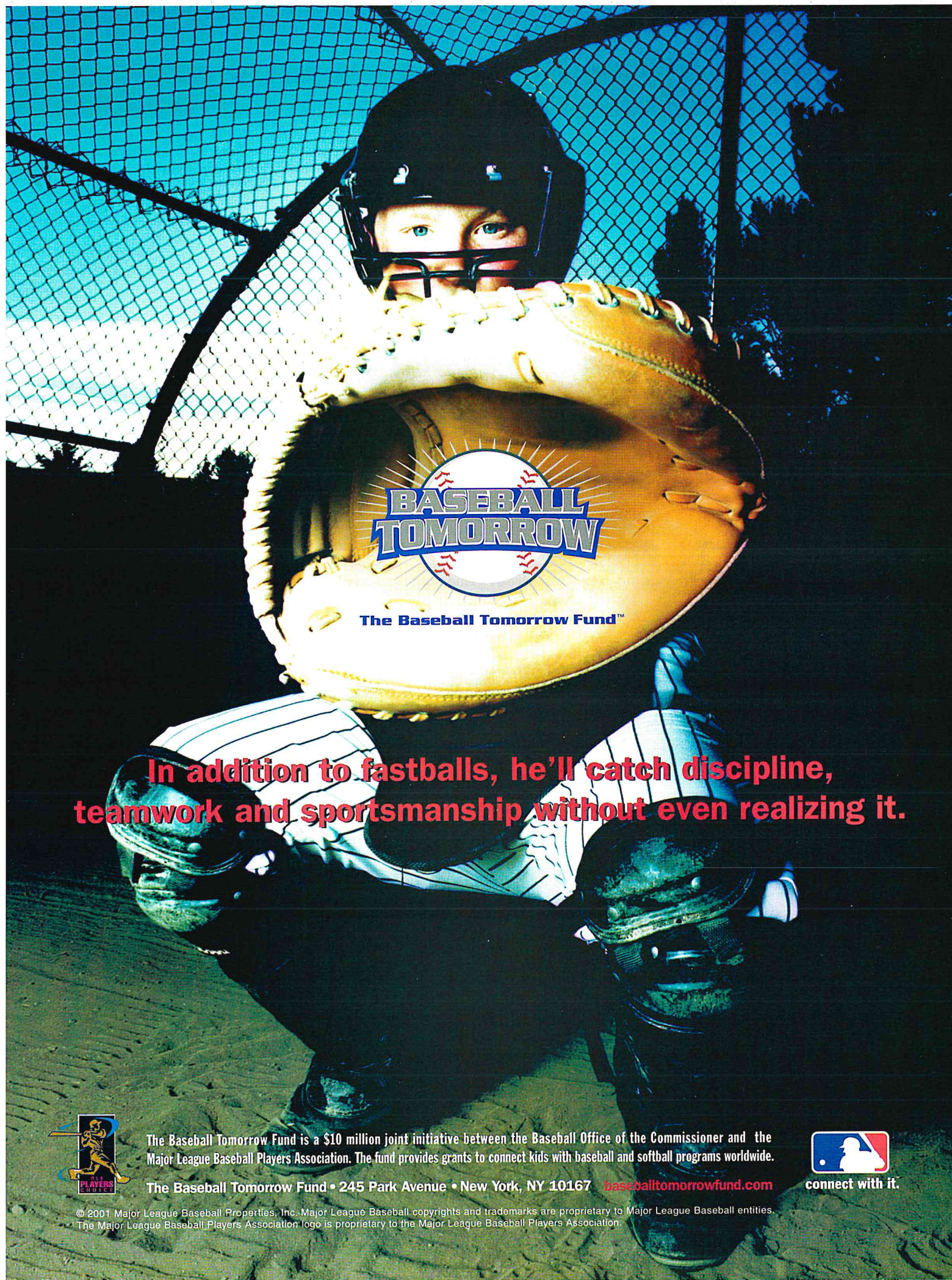
This time, the evolution turned toward a combination of speed, power and deception. By the late '50s, the slider was born — thrown with the same arm speed as the fastball, but with far less wrist action than the curve. The result was devastating to unsuspecting hitters.

THE SPLITTER

THE SPLIT-FINGER FASTBALL IS HELD WITH THE FINGERS SPLIT ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SEAMS, WITH THE THUMB TUCKED UNDERNEATH.



THE SPLITTER IS THROWN HARD LIKE A FASTBALL, BUT WITH A SHARPER BREAK THAN THE CURVE.



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connect with it.

GET A GRIP

For most of the 60 feet, six inches between the mound and home plate, the slider looks like a fastball, the seams spinning too fast to be detected. But just as the hitter begins to swing, the ball breaks down and away — just enough to elude the “sweet spot” of the bat’s barrel.

At worst, a well-thrown slider will turn into a ground ball, but more likely, it produces a complete swing-and-miss, since the hitter is too far along in his weight shift to stop. The slider was at the core of what’s generally regarded as the Golden Age of pitching during the mid-1960s, when every ace — from Bob Gibson to Tom Seaver to Don Drysdale — threw one.

It also didn’t hurt matters that the strike zone was expanded in 1963, the result of what Commissioner Ford Frick considered a disturbing number of home runs. In 1961, for instance, the year that Roger Maris broke Ruth’s single-season record, eight men hit 40 or more homers. In 1962, Major Leaguers hit 3,001 more, the largest number recorded in a single season to that point.

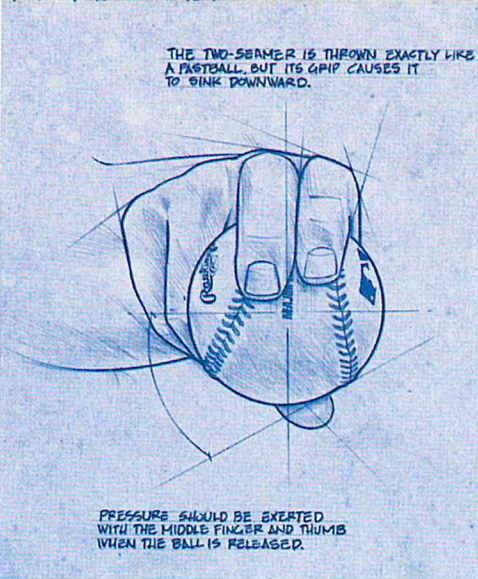
The new strike zone drastically changed the landscape. In 1963, homers fell by 10 percent, runs dropped 12 percent, and overall averages dropped 12 percentage points. But that certainly didn’t stop the “arms” race.

THE SPLITTER

By the ’70s and early ’80s, longtime Giants coach and manager Roger Craig — a former pitcher himself — had popularized the splitter, which some hitters considered even more lethal than the slider. It was thrown with the same velocity, but its downward break was sharper, almost as if its bottom had dropped out.

Even the game’s hardest throwers couldn’t resist trying it. Mike Scott was untouchable in 1986 because of the splitter. Roger Clemens could light up the radar guns with a 98-mph

THE TWO-SEAMER



fastball, but he won the Cy Young award in ’86 because of his splitter. As he says, “That’s the pitch that made a difference for me.”

Soon everyone was throwing the split — from David Cone to Scott Garrelts. But pitchers learned that there was a price to pay for so drastically separating the second and third fingers on their throwing hand.

It put extra stress on the elbow, causing pain, injury and sometimes a loss of velocity on the fastball.

THE TWO-SEAMER

That’s why in the last seven years, the splitter has receded into the background, replaced by the sinking two-seam fastball. It’s less stressful on the arm, and it’s a better antidote to hitters who pump iron and resemble NFL linemen.

Making a mistake to a cleanup hitter today is like signing your death warrant. As Cone says of the pitch’s gaining popularity, “Nothing’s more hittable than a hanging two-seamer.”

Today, most pitchers are equipped with the basic four-pitch arsenal: fastball, two-seamer, slider and curve. Some still throw the splitter, a few tinker with the knuckleball or screwball, and one or two — like the Yankees’ Mike Mussina and Oakland’s Jason Isringhausen — are on the outer fringes, featuring a knuckle-curveball.

But is there anything on the horizon? Maddux says pay close attention to the Yankees’ Orlando Hernandez and the Diamondbacks’ Byung-Hyun Kim, both of whom throw sidearm sliders which have an upward trajectory.

“It’s the most amazing thing I’ve seen,” Maddux says.

Maybe the up-shoot slider can be perfected, packaged and taught. But even if it is, this much is certain: hitters will soon solve it, which is why this war — the one between pitchers and hitters — will never end. ♦

Bob Klapisch covers baseball for The Bergen (N.J.) Record.

LEADERS OF THE PACK

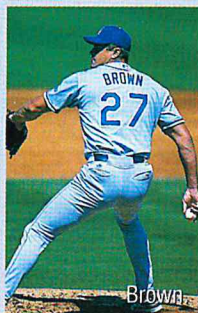
The Curveball: Kenny Rogers owns one of the biggest, loopyest curveballs in baseball, which helped him throw a perfect game. Mike Mussina throws a virtually unhittable knuckle-curve.

The Slider: John Smoltz threw it so hard and so frequently, it caused a ligament tear in his elbow. Before the injury, however, no one had a slider as unforgiving as the Braves’ right-hander.

The Splitter: Try coping with Roger Clemens’ 90-mph splitter, right after his 98-mph fastball. Good luck.

The Two-Seamer: Kevin Brown means business with this pitch. At 90-plus mph with a heavy, late sink, it’s torture for hitters trying to get the ball out of the infield. Greg Maddux is a close second, getting more movement than Brown, but with less velocity.

The Change-up: No one has better arm speed and creates greater deception with a change-up than Pedro Martinez. That’s mainly because hitters are so ready — make that, so tensed up — waiting for his high-90s fastball. A close runner-up is Atlanta’s Tom Glavine.



THE EEPHUS PITCH

For batters today, the challenge of hitting is adjusting to the late, sudden movement of a cut fastball. But for opponents of Pirates pitcher Truett “Rip” Sewell in the 1940s, there was nothing sudden at all. In fact, hitters had all day to wait for Sewell’s famed eephus pitch to enter the strike zone.

Sewell first threw the blooper pitch — a high-arching pitch that reached up to 25 feet in the air before dropping through the strike zone — in an exhibition game against the Detroit Tigers in 1942. The looping pitch so confused batter Dick Wakefield that he actually started to swing, and stopped himself, before hacking and missing so badly that he nearly fell down in the batter’s box.

Sewell earned a spot on three All-Star teams and topped 20 wins in a season twice.

He told reporters that he had invented the pitch out of necessity. A hunting accident had left him unable to pivot properly, so he came up with a more overhand motion, similar to a shot-putter.

The unusual pitch got its unusual name from Pirates outfielder Maurice Van Robays, though he could offer no explanation for it. —Mike Barber



The graphic features a solid blue background. On the left, two black baseballs with white stitching are arranged vertically. A yellow spotlight beam originates from the right and points towards the baseballs. A red and yellow checkered border is positioned on the left side of the image.

STARRING

They may not have waltzed down the red carpet at the Oscars or Emmys, but many big leaguers have taken a swing at the big and small screen.

G LINEUP

They don't call it the All-Star Game for nothing. Baseball's greatest players possess a genuine star quality, and Hollywood has often tried to translate their charisma to movies and television shows. From Lou Gehrig (the Iron Horse played a rancher in 1938's *Western Rawhide*) to Sammy Sosa (the Cubs' slugger offered David Schwimmer hints on how to score in 1997's farce *Kissing A Fool*), many Major Leaguers have taken a swing at big- and small-screen glory. ■ For players, acting offers a crack at even greater fame — and a degree of control over their performances that they don't enjoy on the field. "In acting, you can say, 'Cut!'" explains Ken Griffey Jr., who's had an audience with Will Smith's *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* and has been animated on *The Simpsons*. "You can't tell Randy Johnson, 'Hey, hang on a minute.'" (Both Junior and the Big Unit appeared in the 1994 kiddie comedy *Little Big League*.) ■ For moviemakers, having pros in their cast can lend an air of legitimacy to baseball-themed projects, and TV producers know a diamond-dweller's guest shot can mean a ratings home run. ■ So here's our starting lineup of All-Stars — in every sense of the phrase:



From top: Hank Aaron (right) with Henry Winkler in "Happy Days"; Yogi Berra (far right) with Mickey Mantle (second from left) in "That Touch of Mink"; Roger Clemens (right) with Tommy Lee Jones in "Cobb"; Ty Cobb (left) in "Angels in the Outfield."

HANK AARON

Who better than Hammerin' Hank to endorse Cunningham Hardware? That's what Mr. C. (Tom Bosley) thought when he asked Aaron to do a TV commercial for his store on a 1980 episode of *Happy Days*. (The hit sitcom was set during the 1950s in Milwaukee, when Aaron was playing there for the Braves.) The home run king also played a baseball team manager on Richard Dean Anderson's gadget-heavy adventure series *MacGyver* in 1987. And like several players on this list, Aaron has recently guested on Robert Wuhl's HBO sports agent satire *Arli\$\$.*

YOGI BERRA

The Yankee catcher appeared opposite a pair of movie legends, Cary Grant and Doris Day, in the 1961 romantic comedy *That Touch of Mink*. Berra gets tossed out of a game after Day, who's sitting with rich boyfriend Grant in the dugout, argues balls and strikes with an umpire. Yogi backed up another impressive duo, Phil Silvers (as Sgt. Bilko) and Dick Van Dyke (as a recruit with a wicked fastball), in a 1957 episode of *You'll Never Get Rich*. And yes, that was Yogi on the soap *General Hospital* in 1962 as brain surgeon Dr. Lawrence P. Berra — his real name, aside from the "Dr." part.

WADE BOGGS

Cheers' Sam "Mayday" Malone (Ted Danson) was a retired right-handed relief pitcher for the Red Sox, so it seemed natural when the team's batting champion, Boggs, stopped by the Boston bar in 1988 to sign a few autographs. Only Sam and his pals didn't see it that way. Convinced that their prank-prone bowling rivals from Gary's Olde Towne Tavern had sent over an impostor, the *Cheers* gang chased Boggs out into the street and "pantsed" him.

BARRY BONDS

While playing for the Pirates, Bonds appeared as one of the "Three Big Whiffers" (along with Bobby Bonilla



Mickey Mantle (left) and Roger Maris teamed up off the field in 1962's "Safe at Home," a film about a kid who sneaks into the Yankees' Spring Training camp in order to meet the two stars.

and Pedro Guerrero) struck out by 12-year-old Cubs hurler Thomas Ian Nicholas in *Rookie of the Year*. He proved his sense of humor again when he encountered sportswriter Ray Barone (Ray Romano) on *Everybody Loves Raymond* in 1997. The title of the episode, in which Ray tried to replace the fake stone in his wife's engagement ring? "Diamonds," appropriately enough.

ROGER CLEMENS

The *Simpsons*' 1992 episode "Homer at the Bat" found Clemens as part of a group of ringers (also including Boggs, Don Mattingly and Darryl Strawberry) recruited by nuclear-plant owner Mr. Burns for his softball team. Unfortunately, Clemens was unable to play after getting hypnotized into thinking he was a chicken. The Rocket also showed off his comic flair in 1996's *Kingpin* (directed by *Dumb and Dumber*'s Farrelly brothers) as "Skidmark," a yokel who gets jealous when his girlfriend dances with Amish bowler Randy Quaid. After being traded to the Yankees, Roger butted

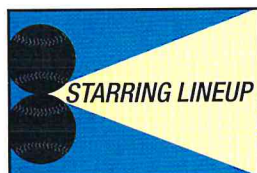
heads with New York City deputy mayor Michael J. Fox on *Spin City*. But his role in the 1994 biopic *Cobb* was no laughing matter: As a Philadelphia A's hurler, Clemens knocked down Tommy Lee Jones' Ty Cobb — and started a bench-clearing brawl.

TY COBB

During the middle of his career with the Tigers, the Atlanta native appeared in a 1916 silent baseball film called *Somewhere in Georgia*, co-written by the legendary sports reporter Grantland Rice. Long after his retirement, Cobb poked fun at his devilish reputation in the 1951 version of *Angels in the Outfield*. Informed that the Pirates are receiving help from heavenly creatures, the Georgia Peach deadpans, "Well, all I can say is that this game of baseball has certainly changed."

DON DRYSDALE

The Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher racked up an impressive array of guest credits ranging from *The Flying Nun* to *The Rifleman*, a 1958 to '63 western starring ex-Brooklyn



"In acting, you can say, 'Cut!' You can't tell Randy Johnson,

Dodgers and Cubs first baseman Chuck Connors. Yet his most memorable cameo may have been on *The Brady Bunch*. In the 1970 episode "The Dropout," architect Mike Brady's new client, Drysdale, encourages Greg (Barry Williams) to pursue pitching, causing the youngster to become so wrapped up in the game that his grades suffer. In a very *Brady* ending, Drysdale eventually convinces Greg that his education is more important.

STEVE GARVEY

With his matinee-idol looks and L.A. connections, the Dodgers first baseman has carved out a diverse acting career. He played a doctor who diagnoses a lifeguard with retinitis pigmentosa on a 1993 *Baywatch* episode, a military officer in 1994's martial-arts drama *Bloodfist VI: Ground Zero*, and a reporter in the contract-killer thriller *Direct Hit*. Most recently, he guested on *Just Shoot Me* as himself: In the episode, *Blush* magazine publisher Jack Gallo (George Segal) gave him a job so he could play in the company softball game against *Cosmopolitan*.

KEITH HERNANDEZ

The Mets first baseman made his acting debut in a classic 1992 episode of *Seinfeld*, in which he dated Elaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), asked Jerry (Jerry Seinfeld) to help him move, and was accused of spitting on Kramer (Michael Richards) and Newman (Wayne Knight) after they insulted him ("Nice game, pretty boy"). He returned for the sitcom's 1998 season finale as a witness in the gang's trial on charges of not being "good Samaritans." Hernandez had another brush with the legal system in a 1994 *Law & Order* episode about the murder of a baseball star's father. He's been seen on the big screen as well, striking out on Brendan Fraser's 109-mph fastball in the 1994 comedy *The Scout*, and playing the aptly-named "Baseball Celebrity" in Mark Wahlberg's 2000 drama *The Yards*.

REGGIE JACKSON

The biggest baseball star of the late '70s, Jackson turned up on some of the decade's most popular TV series: He took a 1977 cruise on *The Love Boat* and kidded around with Gary Coleman on a 1979 episode of *Diff'rent Strokes*. Near the end of his career, he joined Angels teammates Brian Downing and Mike Witt on *The Jeffersons*. After his retirement, he did a trio of movie comedies: 1988's *The Naked Gun* (he was brainwashed into attempting to assassinate Queen Elizabeth), 1994's *Richie Rich* (he was Macaulay Culkin's baseball coach), and 1998's *BASEketball* (his three homers in the 1977 World Series helped inspire the hybrid sport's creator).

MICKEY MANTLE

Mantle and teammate Roger Maris worked together in the 1962 film *Safe at Home* (about a kid who sneaks into the Yankees' Spring Training camp to meet them) and 1980's *It's My Turn* (Michael Douglas plays against them in an old-timers' game). The same year, Mickey went one-on-one with L.A. high school basketball coach Ken Howard on TV's *The White Shadow*. He later teamed up with Whitey Ford to help Pierce Brosnan investigate a series of mysterious accidents at a fantasy baseball camp on *Remington Steele*.

WILLIE MAYS

You could catch the Giants outfielder three times on the 1958 to '66 sitcom *The Donna Reed Show* (twice with Drysdale and Manager Leo Durocher). He popped up as a warlock at a Halloween party on *Bewitched* and did a pair of animated specials: 1972's *Willie Mays and the Say-Hey Kid* and 2000's *Here's to You, Charlie Brown: 50 Great Years*, in which he and Yankees Manager Joe Torre offered Chuck baseball tips.

PAUL O'NEILL

The Yankee outfielder joined Griffey and Johnson in *Little Big League*: He was caught looking on a pitch thrown by Scott Patterson, himself a former pinstriper. O'Neill



From top: Don Drysdale as the umpire in "The Flying Nun"; Steve Garvey with David Spade in "Just Shoot Me"; Keith Hernandez with Julia Louis-Dreyfus in "Seinfeld"; Reggie Jackson with Sherman Hemsley in "The Jeffersons."

'Hey, hang on a minute.' —KEN GRIFFEY JR.

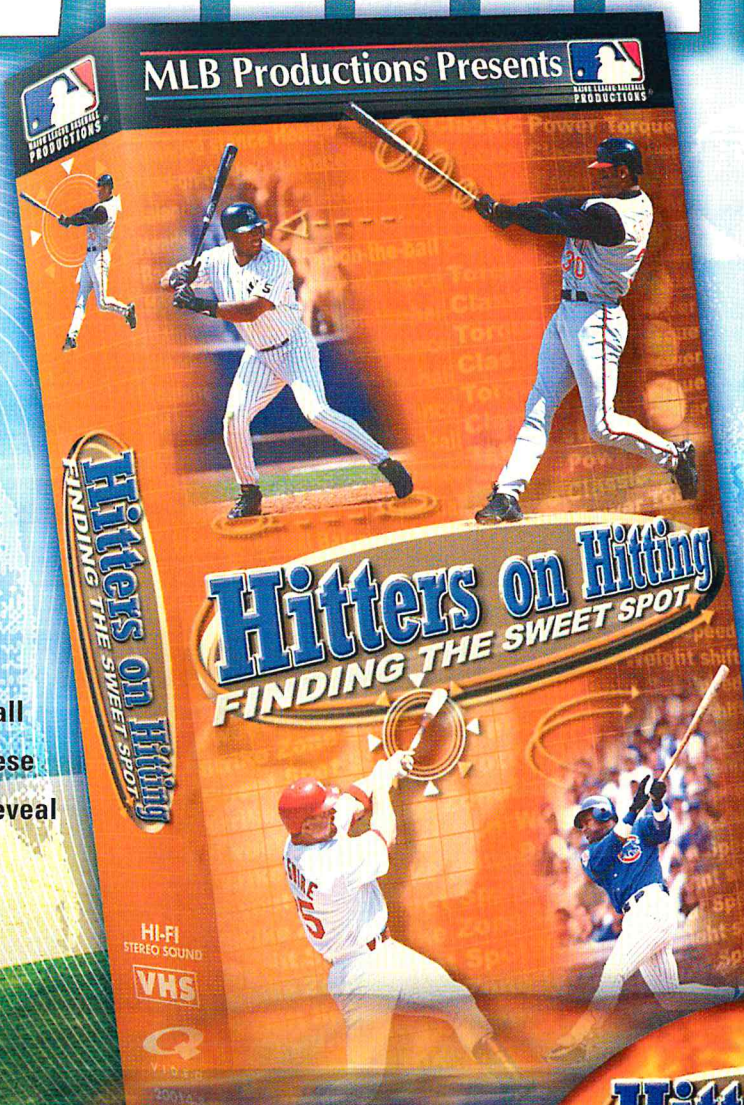
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- Mark McGwire
- Ken Griffey, Jr.
- Tony Gwynn
- Nomar Garciaparra
- Bernie Williams
- Mike Piazza

and other Major League Baseball sluggers discussing hitting. These power-packed hitting-heroes reveal their secrets to successful split-second decisions.



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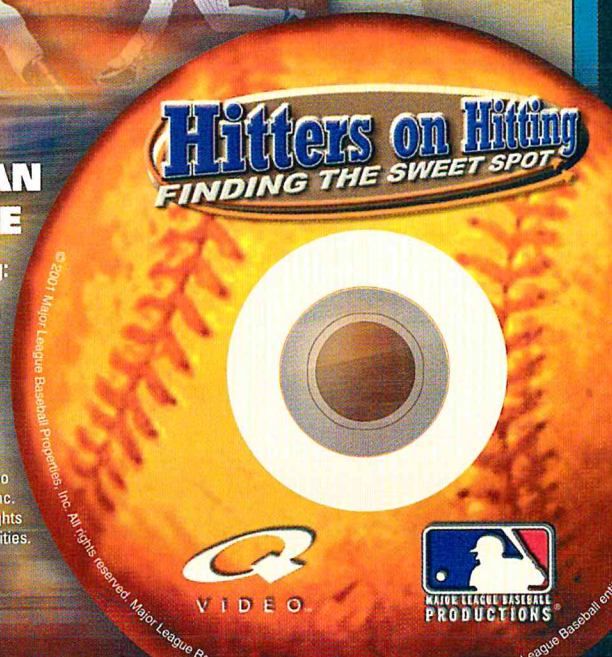
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From top: Paul O'Neill with Kramer in "Seinfeld"; Jackie Robinson in "The Jackie Robinson Story"; Babe Ruth (left) with Gary Cooper in "The Pride of the Yankees"; Bob Uecker (center) in "Mr. Belvedere."

and Patterson also guested on *Seinfeld*, Patterson as the date Elaine deemed "spongeworthy," and O'Neill as himself (Kramer promised a hospitalized, sick boy that Paul would yank two home runs for him, to which the Yankee slugger responded, "That's really hard!") He ended up hitting one out of the park and one inside-the-parker — which was ruled a triple and an error.) Among the other Yankees encountered by team employee George Costanza (Jason Alexander): Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Danny Tartabull and Manager Buck Showalter. George Steinbrenner didn't play himself, however. His character was only seen from behind, and *Seinfeld* co-creator Larry David provided his voice.

MIKE PIAZZA

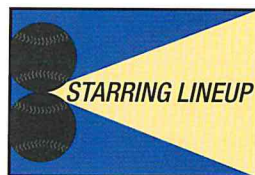
During his Dodger days, the catcher made the most of his time in L.A. with cameos on *Baywatch* (meeting a boy with cancer) and the soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful* (escorting one of the female characters to a fashion show). In the midst of the 1994 strike, Piazza, Bret Saberhagen, Dave Winfield and Frank Thomas appeared as themselves as out-of-work ballplayers searching for jobs on *Married...With Children*. Piazza may soon hit the silver screen as himself in the upcoming Ben Stiller comedy, thus far called *Go to Hell, Mike Piazza*, about an embittered childhood friend who gets a shot at striking out the famous Mets slugger at the All-Star Game.

JACKIE ROBINSON

The Brooklyn Dodgers great reenacted his life in 1950's *The Jackie Robinson Story*. The big-screen biopic, filmed at the height of his Major League career, dramatized not only his historic breaking of baseball's color barrier in 1947, but also his days competing in baseball, basketball, football and track at UCLA, his career as an Army lieutenant during World War II, and his marriage to longtime sweetheart Rachel (Ruby Dee). The casting was perfect: No actor could hit, field and run with the amazing grace that Jackie displayed in the film's many on-field sequences.

BABE RUTH

The Big Bambino brought his larger-than-life comedic presence to the 1928 silent movie *Speedy*, as Harold Lloyd's titular cab driver whisked him off to Yankee Stadium. He made a series of short films in the '20s and '30s with titles like *Babe, Come Home* and *Slide, Babe, Slide* that supposedly earned him more money than his baseball salary, despite the fact that he was the game's highest-paid player at the time. But the Sultan of Swat's greatest smash came in 1942, when he played himself opposite Gary Cooper's terminally ill Lou Gehrig in the immortal weeper *Pride of the Yankees*.



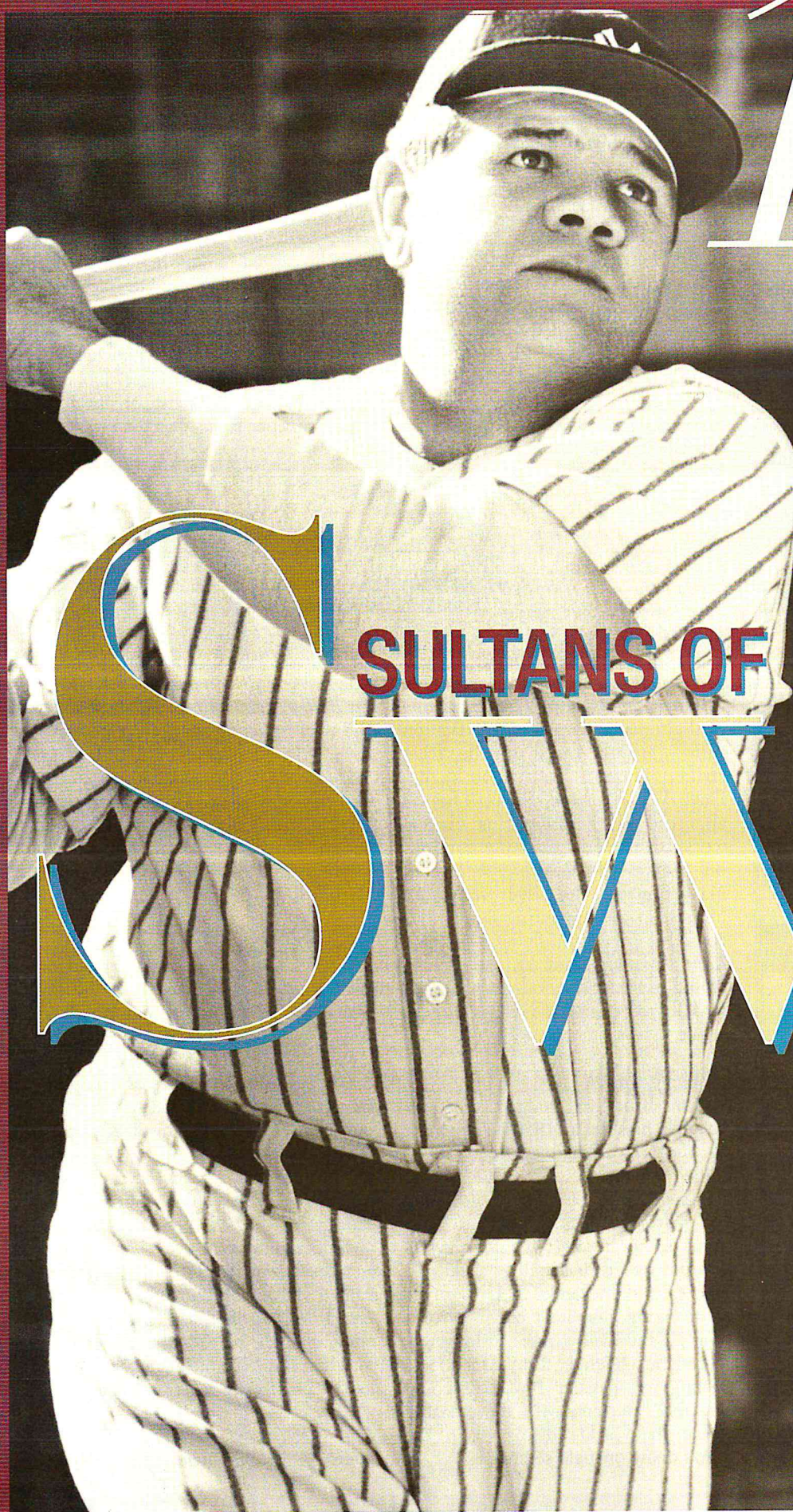
DUKE SNIDER

He played for the Dodgers in both Brooklyn and Los Angeles from 1947 to '62, but in 1956 the outfielder and his touring All-Stars stopped in the small town of Springfield when Jim Anderson (Robert Young) set up a ballgame for them on *Father Knows Best*. Snider shared the screen with another American icon, Elvis Presley, in 1969's *The Trouble with Girls*. Duke also graced us with his presence as a fan in 1991's *Pastime*, a Minor League drama that also featured a quick glimpse of "Rapid Robert" — Indians pitcher Bob Feller.

BOB UECKER

Okay, so the famously mediocre catcher never played in an All-Star Game, but he's become quite the film and TV star. He stole scenes from Charlie Sheen and Tom Berenger in the *Major League* movies as sarcastic sportscaster Harry Doyle ("Just a bit outside"). He even had his own sitcom for five seasons, playing George Owens, a Pittsburgh sportswriter with a veddy British butler (Christopher Hewitt) on *Mr. Belvedere*. Other credits include a guest spot on *Who's the Boss* and the voice of a German shepherd named Trixie in Disney's *Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco*. But oddly enough, he didn't appear in the flick that bears his nickname: Tom Selleck's *Mr. Baseball*. ♦

Bruce Fretts is a critic for Entertainment Weekly magazine.



BABE RUTH

Perhaps only one thing needs to be said about Babe Ruth: He broke the single-season home run record four times. In 1919, Ruth hit 29 home runs: 20 on the road and nine at Fenway. When he moved to the Yankees, the inviting right-field porch of the Polo Grounds enabled him to hit 29 at home, and he ended up with a total of 54 home runs, breaking the record for the second time. For his career, Ruth slugged .690 and got on base at nearly a 50 percent clip, but his statistics, stupendous as they are, were not his biggest contribution to hitting. He brought a new way

of thinking to the game. As historian Bill James wrote, Ruth stood above the crowd "not because he was some kind of superhuman athletic freak, but because he was a trailblazer, a man who had the courage to escape the fictions and falsehoods that constrained other men's talents, and show them what could be done." He brashly challenged the time-tested rules of hitting, and when he succeeded, others began to emulate him. Some became nearly as good, but as writer George Will said, Ruth still stands out "like an Everest in Kansas."

"ALL I CAN TELL 'EM IS I PICK A GOOD ONE AND SOCK IT. I GET BACK TO THE DUGOUT AND THEY ASK ME WHAT IT WAS I HIT, AND I TELL 'EM I DON'T KNOW EXCEPT IT LOOKED GOOD." —BABE RUTH

In hitting, there's a bat and a ball, and everything else is open to debate. Over baseball history, opinions on hitting have varied as greatly as the hitters themselves. In 1869, when the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional team, the statistic they considered most important was runs scored. (After all, the object of the game is to score runs.) But as the 20th century neared, increased emphasis was placed on hits, batting average and bunting skill. Home runs, while an occasional occurrence, were not a goal, and those who tried for them were looked down upon. After Washington Senator Buck Freeman hit an unheard of 25 roundtrippers in 1899, *The Spalding Guide*, the premier baseball publication of the day, ridiculed him. *The Guide* denounced sluggers whose "sole object is to hit it out of sight," arguing that "muscular strength and keen sight are essentials in batting; but sound judgment

and mental ability, and their practical exemplification in strategic skill in batting, are even more necessary, and the batsman who excels in these latter characteristics is worth a dozen of your common class of home run hitters."

This philosophy lasted until Babe Ruth came along. Since 1920, much emphasis has been placed on the three artificially important Triple Crown categories: batting average, home runs and runs batted in. But in recent years, research has shown that two other statistics — on-base and slugging percentage — are far better indicators of offensive excellence. The best hitters are those who can both get on base and hit for power. Even for players who excel at one of the two skills, the other can be difficult to master: Tony Gwynn has rarely hit for power, and Mark McGwire didn't get on base consistently until late in his career. The greatest hitters of all time are those who did both.

CONSIDERING THE LONG-UNDERRATED COMBINATION OF HITTING FOR POWER AND GETTING ON BASE, HERE ARE THE TOP 10 HITTERS OF ALL TIME. **BY ERIC ENDERS**

TED WILLIAMS

Ted Williams may not have been the greatest hitter of all time, but he was surely the most intellectual. (His book *The Science of Hitting* contains enough angles and diagrams to make a geometry teacher wince.) Like Rogers Hornsby, Williams focused on hitting at the expense of other facets of his game, and was sometimes seen taking practice swings between pitches while playing the outfield. Williams never tired of talking about hitting, and never stopped trying to find innovative ways to improve his skills. He was the first batter to use rosin to improve his grip, and the first to realize that a heavy bat didn't necessarily mean more home runs — his stick was usually 32 or 33 ounces. Williams' .483 on-base percentage is the best ever, and his .634 slugging percentage is second only to Ruth. He was famous for his 20/10 vision, unparalleled strike zone judgment and impressive bat control. The words "art" and "hitting" were rarely used in the same sentence until Williams came along, and a generation of sportswriters wore out their vocabularies trying to describe the beauty of his swing. "He had a little white spot on the fat part of the bat where he hit every ball," teammate Bobby Doerr recalled. "Not a mark anywhere else on the bat. It was amazing."



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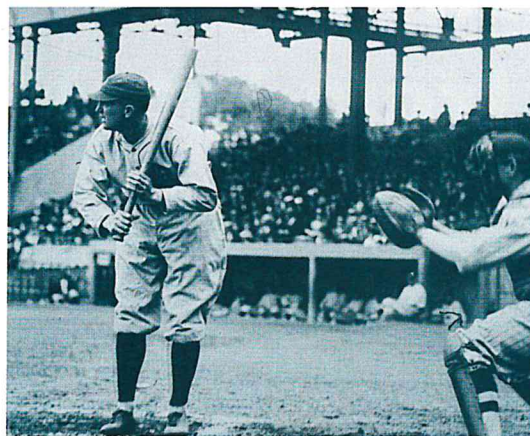


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TY COBB

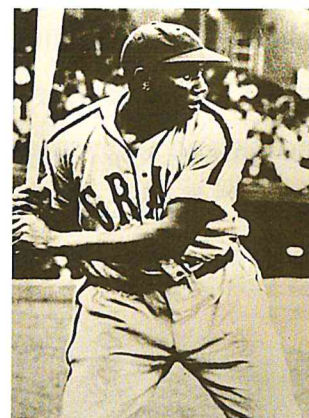
Using his famous split-handed grip, Ty Cobb bunted, slapped and lined his way to 4,189 hits, batting over .400 three times and over .350 16 times. (The grip, incidentally, was an illusion: Cobb always brought his hands back together before swinging.) Most modern fans picture Cobb — incorrectly — as a singles-hitting leadoff man. He did collect 3,053 singles, but he was actually a cleanup hitter for most of his career, leading his league in slugging eight times and RBI four times. However, he was openly contemptuous of Ruth's home run hitting, claiming that his own style was more "scientific" and that anyone could hit home runs if they tried. To prove his point, he announced to a group of sportswriters in 1925, "Gentlemen, pay close attention today. For the first time in my life, I will be deliberately going for home runs." He hit five homers in the next two games, then went back to what he called "real hitting."



"EVERY GREAT HITTER WORKS ON THE THEORY THAT THE PITCHER IS MORE AFRAID OF HIM THAN HE IS OF THE PITCHER." — TY COBB

JOSH GIBSON

Josh Gibson's strength was legendary, and baseball lore is filled with tales of gloves torn off fielders' hands and outfield fences splintered by his line drives. (He usually rolled up his jersey sleeves to show off his ample biceps.) The few reliable records that exist back up the stories. Over two seasons in the Cuban Winter League, a notorious pitchers' circuit, Gibson batted .353 and slugged .549. Gibson's last season in the Negro National League, 1946, was considered subpar by his usual standards: He had a .331 batting average, .656 slugging percentage and won the home run title. Unlike most power hitters, Gibson stood straight up and flat-footed at the plate, and took a short stride when he swung. His power came from extraordinary upper-body strength, and his compact stroke resulted in some of the longest home runs ever hit. But Gibson also had superb bat control and he consistently hit for a high average — in 60 recorded at-bats against Major League pitching, he batted .426. "He was the personification of death and destruction," Wendell Smith wrote in 1947. "But he had the unfortunate experience of being born a Negro, and he paid the penalty for that carelessness throughout his baseball life."



LOU GEHRIG

Using a flat-footed stance with a short stride (later copied by an admiring Josh Gibson), Lou Gehrig used his muscular upper body to drive extra-base hits to all fields. Gehrig really may have been the luckiest man on the face of the earth, because he had two of the greatest advantages any hitter could ask for: He played in the high-octane 1930s, and he had Babe Ruth on his team. With Ruth batting in front of him, Gehrig became the most productive RBI man in baseball history, averaging 157 per season over the eight full years that he played with the Babe. When Ruth hit 60 home runs in 1927, he wasn't even the best hitter on his own team — Gehrig hit .373 with 47 homers, 175 RBI and a .765 slugging percentage. Gehrig topped 400 total bases five times, a mark that has been reached only once in the AL since he retired. He occasionally totaled more home runs than strikeouts in a season, and sometimes lectured at his alma mater, Columbia University, on the strategy of hitting.

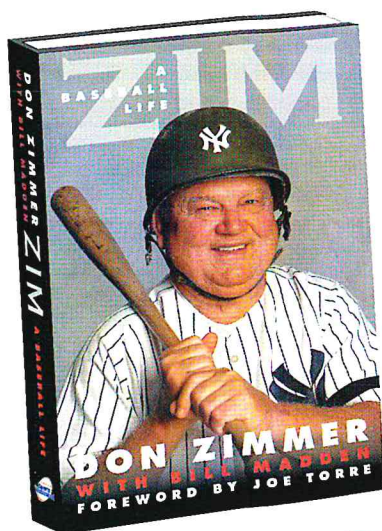
ROGERS HORNSBY

Rogers Hornsby led his league eight times in on-base percentage and nine times in slugging percentage, in part because he was the first National Leaguer to adopt Ruth's philosophy of power hitting. Perhaps more than any other hitter in history, Hornsby's excellence was the product of a single-minded dedication to his craft.



"Baseball is my life," he once said, "the only thing I know and can talk about. It's my only interest." Hornsby antagonized his teammates and shunned his friends, instead devoting his time to perfecting his technique and philosophy of hitting. He became obsessed with protecting his eyesight, refusing to read newspapers or go to movies for fear that they might harm his eyes. It worked: Over the five years from 1921 to '25, Hornsby averaged .402. "Every time I stepped up to the plate with a bat in my hands," he said, "I couldn't help but feel sorry for the pitcher."

Check Out the All-Star Lineup from Total Sports Publishing

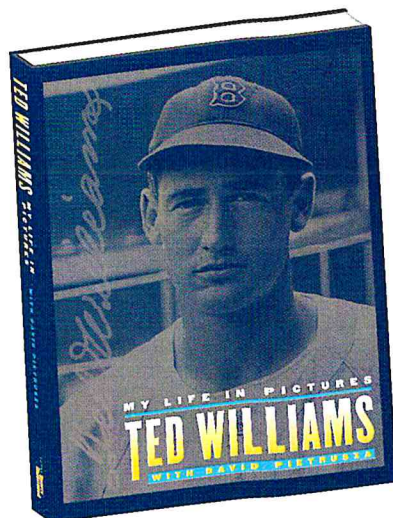
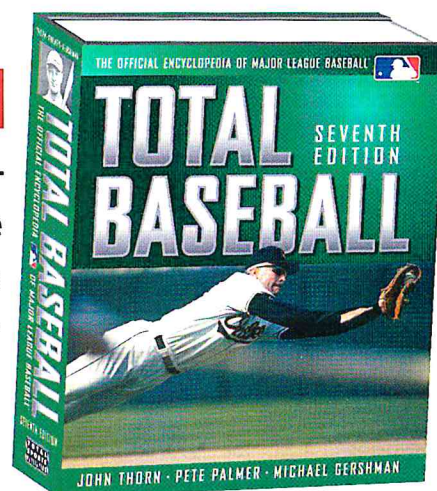


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HONUS WAGNER

The first player to have his signature branded onto a Louisville Slugger, Honus Wagner won eight National League batting titles with a crouched stance that he once said made him look "like a big gorilla" at the plate. Wagner was large, stocky and bowlegged, but when he got on the baseball field, he shed all signs of awkwardness, displaying speed and prodigious strength. Though he hit few home runs, he was baseball's premier power hitter in the first decade of the 20th century, leading his league in RBI five times and slugging percentage six times. Wagner was a proponent of the mental aspects of hitting: Although he was a right-handed batter, he would occasionally bat lefty just to throw the pitcher off. Other players believed that he intentionally looked bad on certain swings so he could get a good look at the ball and induce the pitcher to throw the same pitch again.



"YOU WAIT FOR A STRIKE. THEN YOU KNOCK THE CRAP OUT OF IT." —STAN MUSIAL, ON HOW TO HIT

OSCAR CHARLESTON

The most anonymous of baseball's great hitters, Oscar Charleston combined the strength of Ruth with the ferocious speed and line-drive hitting of Cobb. "I think maybe I would take Charleston over Josh Gibson," Satchel Paige said in 1976. "Charleston would have out-hit Josh over a season in batting average, plus Charleston could bunt and drag the ball. And he could hit the ball out of the ballpark, make no mistake about it." His greatest season was probably 1921, when he batted .434



and led the Negro National League in doubles, triples, homers and stolen bases. Over his nine seasons in the Cuban Winter League, he batted .361. "He used to always be moving his bat," said pitcher Webster McDonauld. "You couldn't get any hard stuff by him, and he had a terrific eye. But of course, if it was a close ballgame, then you've got to walk him." Like Cobb, Charleston's greatness stemmed in part from his fierceness and aggression.

In 1919 he caused a stir by punching out an umpire, and was said to have once defiantly snatched the hood off a Ku Klux Klansman. "He had cold gray eyes, with a tint of blue," former teammate Ted Page said. "Vicious eyes. You just looked right through there and you could see cold-bloodedness. You would say, 'I sure would hate to tangle with this guy.'" Dizzy Dean put it more succinctly: "When he came up, we just threw and hoped like hell he wouldn't get a hold of one and send it out of the park."



STAN MUSIAL

Though he is often forgotten when the roll of great hitters is called, Stan Musial retired as the Major Leagues' career leader in extra-base hits, and the National League's leader in hits, runs and RBI. At the plate, Musial stood in a strange crouch that Hall of Famer Ted Lyons said "looks like a kid peeking around the corner to see if the cops are coming." Then his swing uncoiled like a striking cobra, sending pitchers and fielders running for cover. In an era when most players merely cut down on drinking beer in order to get in shape, Musial developed a strict regimen of calisthenics to keep himself fit. He

was equally devoted to the craft of hitting, believing that concentration was its most important aspect. "You can't be thinking about anything else except the ball, the pitcher, what he might throw, how hard he's going to throw it," he said. "All those things go into concentration."

HENRY AARON

The National League of the 1960s was blessed with many great hitters — Willie Mays, Frank Robinson, Roberto Clemente — but Henry Aaron was the best of the bunch. Despite playing much of his career in a low-offense era, he batted .300 14 times, and in the early 1970s, took most people by surprise when he mounted a challenge to Babe Ruth's home run record. Though not built like a typical power hitter, he used lightning-fast wrists to break many of baseball's career records, including those for home runs and RBI. "The mental aspects of hitting were



especially vital to me," he wrote in his autobiography. "I had to have a full knowledge of every pitcher I came up against. Usually, I would wait for his best pitch, because I knew he would use it sooner or later. I always thought that if I lost that mental edge, I would lose my special ability as a hitter. And my mental edge was knowing that I could hit a good pitcher's best pitch." ♦

Eric Enders is a researcher at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library in Cooperstown, N.Y.

7th inning stretch



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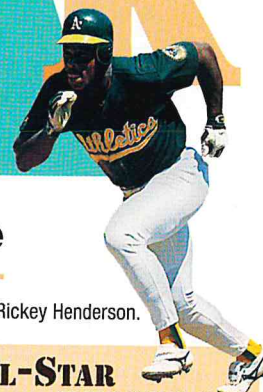
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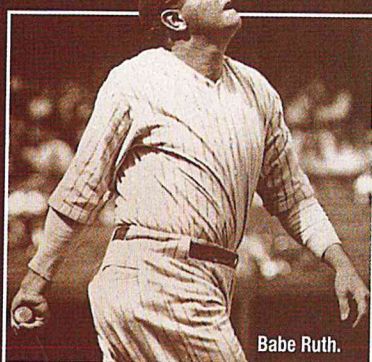
YEAR BY YEAR

A Complete History of the All-Star Game



Rickey Henderson.

July 6, 1933



Babe Ruth.

Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) AL: 4 NL: 0
"The Game of the Century" premiered with a bang as Babe Ruth drove a Bill Hays home run just inside the field foul pole for a two-run home run in the third inning. Frankie Frisch answered Ruth with a sixth-inning blast of his own for the National League.

❖ **July 10, 1934** Polo Grounds, New York (NL) AL: 9 NL: 7
National League starting pitcher Carl Hubbell fanned Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons and Joe Cronin in succession as the National League jumped to a 4-0 lead. But the American League rallied for two in the fourth and six more in the fifth for a 9-7 win.

❖ **July 8, 1935** Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) AL: 4 NL: 1
Jimmie Foxx supplied the offensive power with a two-run homer in the first inning and a run-producing single in the fifth. Fireballer Lefty Gomez provided the pitching prowess with six innings of three-hit work, as the American League earned its third straight victory.

❖ **July 7, 1936** Braves Field, Boston (NL) NL: 4 AL: 3
The National League defeated the American League for the first time, 4-3, scoring twice in the second inning and twice more in the fifth, while Dizzy Dean and Carl Hubbell held their rivals scoreless through six.

❖ **July 7, 1937** Griffith Stadium, Washington (AL) AL: 8 NL: 3
President Franklin Roosevelt threw out the ceremonial first ball. Lefty Gomez threw out the sec-

ond, in his fourth start in five All-Star Games for the American League. He then hurled three scoreless innings. The National League's Joe Medwick collected four hits in a losing cause as the American League, led by Lou Gehrig's two-run blast off Dizzy Dean, coasted to an 8-3 win.

❖ **July 6, 1938** Crosley Field, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 4 AL: 1
Johnny Vander Meer, coming off his amazing back-to-back no-hitters only a month before, threw three scoreless innings to pace the National League to its second All-Star Game victory. He was complemented by Bill Lee and Mace Brown, as the trio scattered seven hits. The error-prone American League didn't help its cause, either.

❖ **July 11, 1939** Yankee Stadium, New York (AL) AL: 3 NL: 1
Manager Joe McCarthy used six of his Yankees in the starting lineup and saw them deliver three of the Junior Circuit's six hits — including a solo shot by Joe DiMaggio. Hard-throwing Bob Feller entered the game in the sixth with the bases loaded and one out and exited unscathed, after forcing NL shortstop Arky Vaughan to hit into an inning-ending double play.

❖ **July 9, 1940** Sportsman's Park, St. Louis (NL) NL: 4 AL: 0
Boston's Max West gave the National League a three-run cushion in the first inning with a three-run dinger, and the National League won, 4-0, to record the first shutout in All-Star Game history. Manager Bill McKechnie used fresh pitchers every two innings to hold the powerful American League bats to just three hits.

❖ **July 8, 1941** Briggs Stadium, Detroit (AL) AL: 7 NL: 5
A dramatic two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth by Ted Williams carried the American League to victory. Until Williams' drive into the upper right-field stands, the batting hero had been the National League's Arky Vaughan, who singled and cracked a pair of two-run homers.

❖ **July 6, 1942** Polo Grounds, New York (NL) AL: 3 NL: 1
The first war-time contest started at 7:22 p.m. (it was scheduled for 5:30 p.m.) after a blackout test. Cleveland's Lou Boudreau crushed Mort Cooper's second pitch of the game into the upper left-field stands for a home run. Tommy Henrich followed him with a double and Rudy York tagged one into the short right-field porch to give the American League all the runs it needed.

❖ **July 13, 1943** Shibe Park, Philadelphia (AL) AL: 5 NL: 3
Bobby Doerr's three-run homer in the second inning propelled the American League to a 5-3 win in the first All-Star Game played at night. Led by Vince DiMaggio's three hits, the National Leaguers out-hit the AL, 10-8, but could manage only three runs, as the NL lost for a disappointing eighth time in 11 Midsummer Classics.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL BATTING, BASERUNNING, GAME

Most Runs, Game: 4

Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946.

Most Runs Batted In, Game: 5

Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946; Al Rosen, AL, July 13, 1954.

Most Hits, Game: 4

Joe Medwick, NL, July 7, 1937 (two singles, two doubles in five at-bats); Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946 (two singles, two home runs in four at-bats, also one base on balls); Carl Yastrzemski, AL, July 14, 1970 (three singles, one double in six at-bats), 12 innings.

Most Times Reached Base Safely, Game: 5

Charlie Gehringer, AL, July 10, 1934 (three base on balls, two singles); Phil Cavarretta, NL, July 11, 1944 (three base on balls, one single, one triple); Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946 (one base on balls, two singles, two home runs).

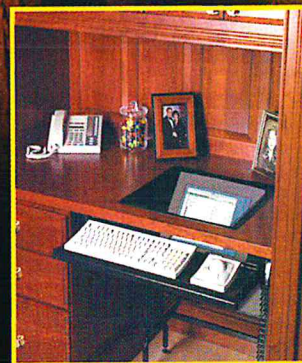
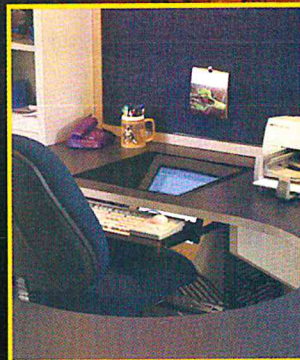


Ted Williams.

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YEAR BY YEAR

July 11, 1944 Forbes Field, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 7 AL: 1

The National League, led by the Chicago Cubs' Bill "Swish" Nicholson, who ignited a four-run rally in the fifth with a pinch-hit double, beat the American League, 7-1. The Cubs' Phil Cavarretta reached base safely a record five times on a triple, single and three walks.

July 9, 1946 Fenway Park, Boston (AL) AL: 12 NL: 0

After a one-year interruption due to war-time travel restrictions, the American League, led by Ted Williams' hitting and Bob Feller's pitching, crushed the National League, 12-0, in the most one-sided contest in All-Star Game history. Williams, playing in front of his hometown fans, belted two home runs and two singles in the win.

July 8, 1947 Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 2 NL: 1

The National League held a 1-0 lead through five innings, courtesy of a home run by New York Giant Johnny Mize off Frank "Spec" Shea. But Shea wound up as the winning pitcher when the American League scored once in the sixth and then again in the seventh, on Bobby Doerr and Stan Spence singles, to provide the narrow 2-1 victory margin.

July 13, 1948 Sportsman's Park, St. Louis (AL) AL: 5 NL: 2

The American League, slowed by nagging injuries to four of its top

stars — Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, George Kell and Hal Newhouser — still managed to overcome a 2-0 deficit and win for the 11th time in 15 All-Star Games. The National League jumped on starter Walt Masterson for two runs in the top of the first.

July 11, 1950 Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) NL: 4 AL: 3

In the first extra-inning contest in All-Star Game history, the National League won a thriller, when St. Louis Cardinals second baseman Red Schoendienst smacked a solo home run off Detroit's Ted Gray in the 14th inning. The American League had blown a one-run lead in the ninth inning when Art Houtteman surrendered a game-tying home run to Ralph Kiner. The game got off to a rough start, as Boston's Ted Williams fractured his left elbow when he collided into the left-field wall while robbing Kiner of an extra-base hit in the first inning.

July 10, 1951 Briggs Stadium, Detroit (AL) NL: 8 AL: 3

The National League, for the first time in All-Star Game history, won two consecutive contests, beating the American League in a showcase of power. The Senior Circuit clobbered a record four home runs in the win. Six of the National League's eight runs resulted from the quartet of shots by Stan Musial, Bob Elliott, Ralph Kiner and Gil Hodges.

July 8, 1952 Shibe Park, Philadelphia (NL) NL: 3 AL: 2

In the only shortened All-Star Game in history, the National League came away with the victory on home runs by Jackie Robinson and Hank Sauer. Before the game was called off due to rain at the end of the fifth inning, A's left-hander Bobby Shantz struck out the side.

July 14, 1953 Crosley Field, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 5 AL: 1

The National League combined a powerful 10-hit attack with effective pitching to capture its fourth straight All-Star Game. The offensive hero was St. Louis Cardinal Enos Slaughter, who rapped two singles, earned one walk, scored twice and drove in one run. Former Negro League legend Satchel Paige, just 47 years young, pitched the eighth inning for the AL.

July 13, 1954 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) AL: 11 NL: 9

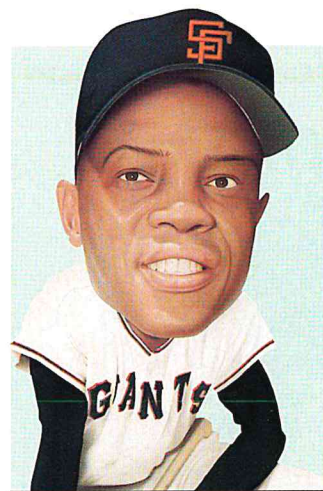
The American League belted a record 17 hits to record the victory, 11-9, in the highest scoring contest in All-Star Game history. Despite two home runs by an injured Al Rosen and solo shots by Larry Doby and Ray Boone, the biggest hit was a bloop single by Nellie Fox in the eighth inning that gave the American League the victory.

July 12, 1955 County Stadium, Milwaukee (NL) NL: 6 AL: 5

After three hours and 17 minutes, 20 strikeouts and 23 hits, a solo home run by St. Louis Cardinals slugger Stan Musial on the first pitch in the bottom of the 12th inning ended this marathon of a contest. Milwaukee's Gene Conley, who struck out the side in the 12th, was the winning pitcher, while Boston's Frank Sullivan got the loss.

July 10, 1956 Griffith Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 7 AL: 3

The National League pounded out 11 hits, including home runs by Willie Mays and Stan Musial, to win for the sixth time in seven games. The game's hero was St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Ken Boyer, who finished 3 for 5 and turned in three acrobatic fielding plays.



Willie Mays.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

Most Doubles, Game: 2

Joe Medwick, NL, July 7, 1937; Al Simmons, AL, July 10, 1934; Ted Kluszewski, NL, July 10, 1956; Ernie Banks, NL, July 7, 1959; Barry Bonds, NL, July 13, 1993.

Most Triples, Game: 2

Rod Carew, AL, July 11, 1978.

Most Home Runs, Game: 2

Arky Vaughan, NL, July 8, 1941 (consecutive); Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946; Al Rosen, AL, July 13, 1954 (consecutive); Willie McCovey, NL, July 23, 1969 (consecutive); Gary Carter, NL, August 9, 1981 (consecutive).

Most Total Bases, Game: 10

Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946.

Most Base on Balls, Game: 3

Charlie Gehringer, AL, July 10, 1934; Phil Cavarretta, NL, July 11, 1944.

Most Stolen Bases, Game: 2

Willie Mays, NL, July 9, 1963; Kelly Gruber, AL, July 10, 1990; Roberto Alomar, AL, July 14, 1992; Kenny Lofton, AL, July 9, 1996.

Stealing Home, Game: 1

Harold "Pie" Traynor, NL, July 10, 1934 (front end of a double steal with Mel Ott in the fifth inning).

INDIVIDUAL BATTING, BASERUNNING, FIELDING, CAREER

Most Games: 24

Stan Musial, NL, 1943-63 (consecutive); Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (consecutive); Hank Aaron, NL, 1954-74 (23 games), AL, 1975 (one game).

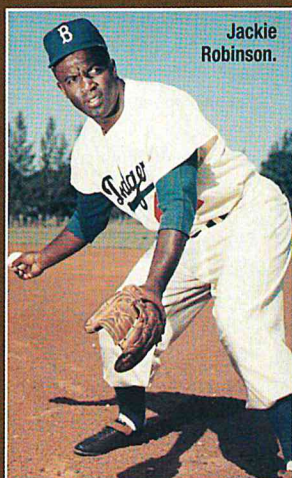
Highest Batting Average, Five or More Games: .500

Charlie Gehringer, AL, 1933-38 (10-20 in seven games).

Most At-Bats: 75

Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

July 12, 1949



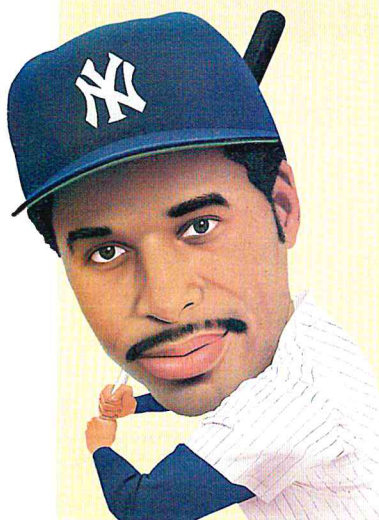
Jackie Robinson.

Ebbets Field, Brooklyn (NL)

AL: 11 NL: 7

In a high-scoring affair that saw 42 players, 25 hits, 18 runs and five errors — four committed by the National League — the American League prevailed in a slugfest, for its 12th victory in 16 games. Jackie Robinson, who became the first African-American to start an All-Star Game, opened at second base for the National League, and also cracked a double. The DiMaggio brothers, Joe and Dom, combined for four RBI and the Yankees' Vic Raschi hurled three shutout innings.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS



Dave Winfield.

Most Runs: 20

Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Consecutive Games Batting Safely: 7

Mickey Mantle, AL, 1954-58, 1959 (second game), 1960 (second game); Joe Morgan, NL, 1970, 1972-77. Dave Winfield, AL, 1982-88.

Most Doubles: 7

Dave Winfield, NL, 1977-80, AL, 1981-88 (12 games).

Most Triples: 3

Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games); Brooks Robinson, AL, 1960-74 (18 games).

Most Career Home Runs

Nine players have hit three or more home runs in All-Star Game competition: Stan Musial, 6 (in 24 games played); Fred Lynn, 4 (nine games); Ted Williams, 4 (18 games); Johnny Bench, 3 (12 games); Gary Carter, 3 (eight games); Rocky Colavito, 3 (nine games); Harmon Killebrew, 3 (11 games); Ralph Kiner, 3 (five games); Willie Mays, 3 (24 games).

Most Consecutive Games Hitting Home Run: 3

Ralph Kiner, NL, 1949-51.

Most Total Bases: 40

Stan Musial, NL, 1943-63 (24 games); Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games).

Most Base on Balls: 11

Ted Williams, AL, 1940-60 (18 games).

Most Strikeouts: 17

Mickey Mantle, AL, 1953-68 (16 games).

Most Stolen Bases: 6

Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games).

YEAR BY YEAR

July 9, 1957 Busch Stadium, St. Louis (NL) AL: 6 NL: 5

An avalanche of votes from Cincinnati elected Reds to eight National League starting positions. The only non-Red was first baseman Stan Musial. Commissioner Ford Frick arbitrarily named Willie Mays and Hank Aaron to the starting team, but the American League still won.

July 8, 1958 Memorial Stadium, Baltimore (AL) AL: 4 NL: 3

The Diamond Jubilee Game featured 13 hits — all singles — as the American League won, 4-3. The first hit came on the game's first pitch, to San Francisco's Willie Mays, who later scored. But two American League singles in the sixth by Frank Malzone and Gil McDougald provided the difference.

1959

GAME 1: July 7, Forbes Field, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4

GAME 2: August 3, Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles (NL) AL: 5 NL: 3

The All-Star Game, a Midsummer fixture since 1933, became a double feature in 1959. Two games were scheduled to help give the players' pension fund a boost. The National League captured the first contest by a run, but the American League earned the split a month later on the strength of three home runs.

1960

GAME 1: July 11, Municipal Stadium, Kansas City (AL) NL: 5 AL: 3

GAME 2: July 13, Yankee Stadium, New York (AL) NL: 6 AL: 0

The National League won both All-Star Games, in what would become the only year this was accomplished. The Senior Circuit edged

the American League in the first game, then won the second contest on three hits by Willie Mays, four home runs, and a stifling pitching performance by six hurlers.

1961

GAME 1: July 11, Candlestick Park, San Francisco (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4

GAME 2: July 31, Fenway Park, Boston (AL) NL: 1 AL: 1

The National League out-hit the American League 11-4 in the first All-Star Game of 1961, but had to rally in the bottom of the 10th for the come-from-behind 5-4 win. Jim Bunning fired two scoreless innings for the Junior Circuit. History was made in the second game, as rain stopped play after nine innings, making it the only All-Star Game tie.

1962

GAME 1: July 10, D.C. Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 3 AL: 1

GAME 2: July 30, Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 9 NL: 4

In the final year of two Midsummer Classics, the leagues traded wins. The National League grabbed the opener thanks to three timely hits by Roberto Clemente. The American League evened things up — and won its last Midsummer Classic during the 1960s — on home runs by Pete Runnels, Leon Wagner and Rocky Colavito.

July 7, 1964 Shea Stadium, New York (NL) NL: 7 AL: 4

The National League rallied for four runs in the bottom of the ninth to win. Willie Mays led off with a walk and then stole second. Orlando Cepeda drove in Mays to tie the game and went to second on Joe Pepitone's throwing

error. After Johnny Edwards was intentionally walked, Johnny Callison homered over the right-field wall to end the thrilling game.

July 13, 1965 Metropolitan Stadium, Minnesota (AL) NL: 6 AL: 5

With Juan Marichal shutting down the AL hitters and facing the minimum of nine batters over the first three innings, the National League breezed to an early 5-0 lead. But the American League stormed back to tie things up on a pair of two-run shots by Dick McAuliffe and Harmon Killebrew. The National League broke the deadlock in the seventh when Willie Mays scored on a Ron Santo infield hit.

July 12, 1966 Busch Stadium, St. Louis (NL) NL: 2 AL: 1

In a tight pitchers' battle highlighted by Denny McLain's three perfect innings, the National League eventually edged the American Leaguers, 2-1, on a clutch Maury Wills single in the 10th inning.

July 11, 1967 Anaheim Stadium, California (AL) NL: 2 AL: 1

The National League squeaked by with a 15-inning, 2-1 victory, the longest contest in All-Star Game history. All three runs came courtesy of the longball, the first by National Leaguer Richie Allen, the second by Brooks Robinson, and the game-winner by Tony Perez.

July 9, 1968 Astrodome, Houston (NL) NL: 1 AL: 0

The first All-Star Game played indoors was highlighted by dominating pitching. The two leagues combined for just eight hits and one run, which was earned by the National League in the first on a single, an error, a wild pitch and a double play.

July 23, 1969 RFK Memorial Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 9 AL: 3

Detroit's Denny McLain, the American League's starting pitcher, arrived too late to start the game. By the time he entered the contest in the fourth inning, the National League had accumulated eight runs, including two-run blasts by Johnny Bench and Willie McCovey.

July 9, 1963



Stan Musial.

Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) NL: 5 AL: 3

The National League used just six hits, all singles, to earn the victory. San Francisco slugger Willie Mays starred, as he collected one hit, drove in two runs, scored twice, and stole two bases. Stan Musial set a record with his 24th All-Star Game appearance.



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ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS



Bo Jackson.

Most Fielding Positions Played: 5

Pete Rose, NL, 1965-82, 85, second base, left field, right field, third base, first base (16 games).

CLUB BATTING, BASERUNNING, GAME

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, One Club: 44

AL, July 14, 1992.

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, Both Clubs: 83

AL (44), NL (39), July 14, 1992.

Fewest Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, One Club: 27 (NL)

July 9, 1968 (eight innings).

Most Runs, Game, Both Clubs: 21

AL (13), NL (8), July 7, 1998.

Most Hits, Game, One Club: 19

AL, July 14, 1992; AL, July 7, 1998.

Most Hits, Game, Both Clubs: 31

AL (17), NL (14), July 14, 1954; AL (19), NL (12), July 14, 1992; AL (19), NL (12), July 7, 1998.

Back-to-Back Home

Runs: 4 times

Al Rosen and Ray Boone, AL, July 13, 1954; Ted Williams and Mickey Mantle, AL, July 10, 1956; Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn, July 15, 1975; Bo Jackson and Wade Boggs, AL, July 11, 1989.

Most Doubles, Game, Both Clubs: 7

AL (5), NL (2), July 12, 1949; AL (4), NL (3), July 13, 1993.

Most Home Runs, Inning, Both Clubs: 3

NL, 2 (Stan Musial, Bob Elliott), AL, 1 (Vic Wertz), July 10, 1951; AL, 2 (Reggie Jackson, Frank Robinson), NL, 1 (Hank Aaron), July 13, 1971.

YEAR BY YEAR

❖ July 14, 1970 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4

The National League erupted late in the game, and rallied for three runs in the ninth to force extra innings. In the 12th inning, Pete Rose scored the game-winning run on a Jim Hickman single when catcher Ray Fosse dropped the ball following a collision at the plate.

❖ July 13, 1971 Tiger Stadium, Detroit (AL) AL: 6 NL: 4

The American League snapped an eight-game losing streak by belting three two-run homers. The six home runs by six different players tied an All-Star Game record.

❖ July 24, 1972 Atlanta Stadium, Atlanta (NL) NL: 4 AL: 3

Cookie Rojas's two-run home run gave the AL a 3-2 lead heading into the ninth. But the National League tied things up in the bottom half of the frame, then won in the 10th on a Joe Morgan RBI single.

❖ July 24, 1973 Royals Stadium, Kansas City (AL) NL: 7 AL: 1

MVP Bobby Bonds replaced starter Billy Williams in the fourth inning, then smacked a two-run homer in the fifth inning as the National League earned the 7-1 victory.

❖ July 23, 1974 Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 7 AL: 2

AL President Lee MacPhail, noting that his league had just one victory over the last 11 All-Star Games, instructed Dick Williams to use the best talent available. But the NL still prevailed, 7-2.

❖ July 15, 1975 County Stadium, Milwaukee (AL) NL: 6 AL: 3

Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn homered to give the NL a 2-0 lead, but Carl Yastrzemski tied it with a three-run blast. In the ninth, AL outfielders misplayed two balls leading to three National League runs.

❖ July 13, 1976 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia (NL) NL: 7 AL: 1

The National League continued its dominance in the All-Star Game with its 13th win in the last 14 contests. George Foster and Cesar Ceno each hit two-run shots.

❖ July 11, 1978 San Diego Stadium, San Diego (NL) NL: 7 AL: 3

The National League shook starter Vida Blue for three runs in the bottom of the third, then scored four more off Rich Gossage in the eighth to win once again.

❖ July 17, 1979 Kingdome, Seattle (AL) NL: 7 AL: 6

Lee Mazzilli clubbed an opposite-field home run in his first All-Star Game at-bat to tie the score in the eighth inning. In the ninth, he walked to force in the winning run.

❖ July 8, 1980 Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles (NL) NL: 4 AL: 2

After spotting the American League a 2-0 lead on Fred Lynn's two-run home run, the National League rallied on a single and a homer by Ken Griffey Sr. to pull out the come-from-behind win.

❖ August 9, 1981 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) NL: 5 AL: 4

The largest crowd in All-Star Game history, at more than 72,000 fans, saw the National League score all of its runs on home runs and stretch its winning streak to 10 games. Mike Schmidt's two-run blast in the eighth inning proved to be the game winner.

❖ July 13, 1982 Olympic Stadium, Montreal (NL) NL: 4 AL: 1

This was the first All-Star Game played outside the United States. But the change in venue didn't help the American League, as Dave Concepcion drilled a two-run home run to lead the National League to the victory. Six NL pitchers held the AL scoreless after the first inning.

❖ July 6, 1983 Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) AL: 13 NL: 3

The American League celebrated the All-Star Game's 50th Anniversary — and a victory — at the site of the first game, Comiskey Park. An 11-game losing streak was snapped courtesy of a seven-run outburst in the third.

❖ July 10, 1984 Candlestick Park, San Francisco (NL) NL: 3 AL: 1

At age 19, Dwight Gooden became the youngest player ever to compete in an All-Star Game, teaming with Fernando Valenzuela to lead the National League to a 3-1 victory.

❖ July 16, 1985 Metrodome, Minnesota (AL) NL: 6 AL: 1

The American League managed just five singles and one unearned run as five National League pitchers, including LaMarr Hoyt and Nolan Ryan, served up the heat.

❖ July 15, 1986 Astrodome, Houston (NL) AL: 3 NL: 2

Fernando Valenzuela fanned five consecutive batters to tie Carl Hubbell's 52-year-old All-Star Game record. The AL still triumphed thanks to two home runs.

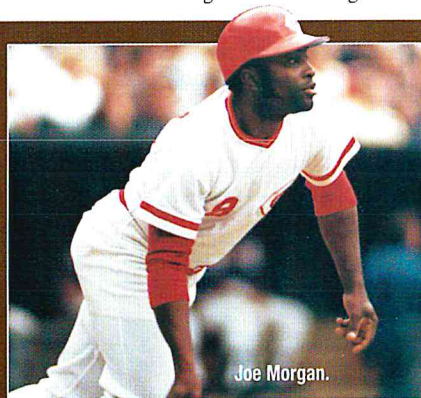
❖ July 14, 1987 Oakland Coliseum, Oakland (AL) NL: 2 AL: 0

Pitching dominated as the teams battled through 12 scoreless innings. But Tim Lincecum's triple in the 13th inning scored Ozzie Virgil and Hubie Brooks for a 2-0 NL win.

❖ July 12, 1988 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati (NL) AL: 2 NL: 1

Terry Steinbach's MVP performance finally put the American League back into the victory col-

❖ July 19, 1977



Joe Morgan.

Yankee Stadium, New York (AL)

NL: 7 AL: 5

Joe Morgan opened the game with a homer off Jim Palmer. By the time the inning had ended, the National League had scored four runs en route to a 7-5 victory.

ILLUSTRATION BY DOMINIC PHILBERT. MLB PHOTOS (MORGAN)



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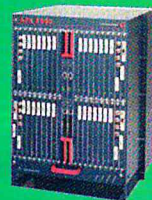
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YEAR BY YEAR

umn. The Oakland slugger homered in his first All-Star Game at-bat in the third inning and drove in the game-winner in the fourth.

❖ July 11, 1989 Anaheim Stadium, California (AL) AL: 5 NL: 3

The National League struck first with two runs in the first, but Bo Jackson countered back in that same inning with a home run in his first All-Star Game at-bat. Wade Boggs followed with his own shot, to lead the AL to back-to-back wins for the first time since the 1957 and 1958 seasons.

❖ July 10, 1990 Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 2 NL: 0

Wrigley Field, the last bastion of daytime baseball, hosted its third All-Star Game and its first under the lights. The American League won its third Midsummer Classic in a row, as its pitchers, led by Bob Welch, surrendered just two hits.

❖ July 9, 1991 SkyDome, Toronto (AL) AL: 4 NL: 2

The Nationals took an early 1-0 lead on singles by Tony Gwynn, Will Clark and Bobby Bonilla, but Cal Ripken's three-run blast in the bottom of the third inning, following singles by Rickey Henderson and Wade Boggs, helped the American League earn the victory in just the second All-Star Game ever held outside the United States. Andre Dawson hit a home run in a losing effort.

❖ July 14, 1992 Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego (NL)

AL: 13 NL: 6

The Americans chased starter Tom Glavine with four runs on seven consecutive singles in the first inning. Ken Griffey Jr. went 3 for 3 with a home run, and his teammates added four runs in the sixth and three more in the eighth to complete the rout.

❖ July 13, 1993

Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore (AL) AL: 9 NL: 3

After spotting the National League a 2-0 lead in the first inning, the American League roared back. Led by Kirby Puckett's home run and double, the Junior Circuit scored three runs in both the fifth and sixth frames, while its pitchers held the National League in check.

❖ July 12, 1994

Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 8 AL: 7

The National League snapped a six-game losing streak, thanks to Moises Alou's double that scored Tony Gwynn in the bottom of the 10th inning. Atlanta's Fred McGriff homered in the ninth inning to set the stage for the dramatic finish.

❖ July 11, 1995 The Ballpark in Arlington, Texas (AL)

NL: 3 AL: 2

Following three scoreless innings, the American League posted a 2-0 lead when Frank Thomas crushed

a John Smiley pitch in the bottom of the fourth inning. Despite struggling offensively, the National League made the most of its three hits — all yard shots by Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Jeff Conine — for the one-run triumph.

❖ July 9, 1996 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia (NL)

NL: 6 AL: 0

Nine National League hurlers combined for the seventh shutout in All-Star Game history. Los Angeles catcher Mike Piazza blasted a home run in the second and drove in two runs to earn MVP honors. Neither team issued a walk for the first time in Midsummer Classic history.

❖ July 8, 1997 Jacobs Field, Cleveland (AL) AL: 3 NL: 1

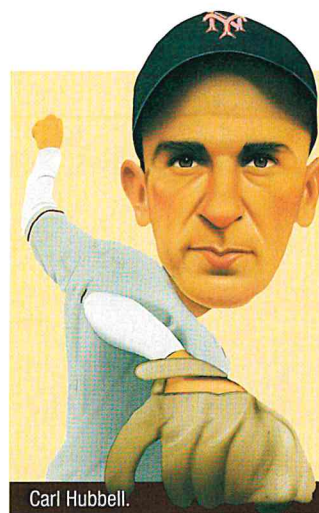
Sandy Alomar Jr. made the most of his first All-Star Game appearance in five seasons and his only at-bat of the contest. The Cleveland slugger belted a game-deciding home run in the seventh inning in front of a thrilled home crowd. American League pitchers did their part, too, limiting the powerful National League lineup to three hits.

❖ July 7, 1998 Coors Field, Colorado (NL) AL: 13 NL: 8

The first All-Star Game at mile-high Coors Field proved to be a high-scoring affair, with the American League taking a 13-8 decision even though the teams hit only three home runs combined. Led by Roberto Alomar, the Junior Circuit scored at least one run every inning after the fourth, and Paul O'Neill's throw to nail Fernando Vina at the plate in the eighth inning helped seal the victory.

❖ July 13, 1999 Fenway Park, Boston (AL) AL: 4 NL: 1

American League pitchers held the National League to only one run on seven hits in this pitchers' duel. Hometown hero Pedro Martinez started the game by striking out Barry Larkin, Larry Walker and Sammy Sosa, and went on to strike out five of the six batters he faced. The American League batters managed just six hits, but they were timely enough to drive in four runs.



Carl Hubbell.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Most Games Pitched: 8

Jim Bunning, AL, 1957, 1959 (first game), 1961 (2), 1962 (first game), 1963, NL, 1964, 1966; Don Drysdale, NL, 1959 (2), 1962 (first game), 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968; Juan Marichal, NL, 1962 (2), 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1971; Tom Seaver, NL, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1981.

Most Consecutive Games Pitched: 6

Ewell Blackwell, NL, 1946-51; Early Wynn, AL, 1955-59 (both games in 1959).

Most Games Won: 3

Lefty Gomez, AL, 1933, 1935, 1937.

Most Games Lost: 2

Mort Cooper, NL, 1942-43; Claude Passeau, NL, 1941, 1946; Whitey Ford, AL, 1959 (first game), 1960 (second game); Luis Tiant, AL, 1968, 1974; Catfish Hunter, AL, 1967, 1975; Dwight Gooden, NL, 1986, 1988.

Most Innings Pitched,

Total Games: 19 1/3

Don Drysdale, NL (eight games).

Most Runs Allowed, Game: 7

Atlee Hammaker, NL, July 6, 1983.

Most Hits Allowed, Game: 9

Tom Glavine, NL, July 14, 1992.

Most Home Runs Allowed, Game: 3

Jim Palmer, AL, July 19, 1977.

Most Base on Balls,

Game: 5

"Wild Bill" Hallahan, NL, July 6, 1933, two innings.

Most Strikeouts, Game: 6

Carl Hubbell, NL, July 10, 1934; Johnny Vander Meer, NL, July 13, 1943; Larry Jansen, NL, July 11, 1950; Ferguson Jenkins, NL, July 11, 1967.

❖ July 11, 2000



Derek Jeter.

Turner Field, Atlanta (NL)

AL: 6 NL: 3

The American League won its fourth consecutive Midsummer Classic thanks to clutch hitting by Derek Jeter. The game's MVP hit safely in each of his three at-bats to become the first Yankee to capture the award. Despite a home run from hometown hero Chipper Jones that tied the score in the third inning, the National League couldn't muster a rally while facing eight AL pitchers, led by winner James Baldwin.

Finishing Blasts

There's no better way for baseball's most talented players to end an All-Star Game than with a game-winning home run.

IT IS ALTOGETHER RIGHT THAT BASEBALL's annual midsummer family picnic, the All-Star Game, is played this year in Seattle, a caffeinated city facing the Far East. Baseball certainly is caffeinated these days — lots of pep and pop — with an influx of remarkable baseball talent coming from across the Pacific.

Safeco Field is hosting its first All-Star Game and the second in this city since the first such frolic took place in old Comiskey Park in 1933. Original Comiskey is long gone. But then, 12 of the 15 parks then in service are gone.

The nation, and especially the West Coast, has undergone extraordinary changes since 1933. Seattle's population then was 365,000. St. Louis was the western-most Major League city. Baseball has changed, too, but the beauty of baseball memories is that they do not change. They are vivid forever.

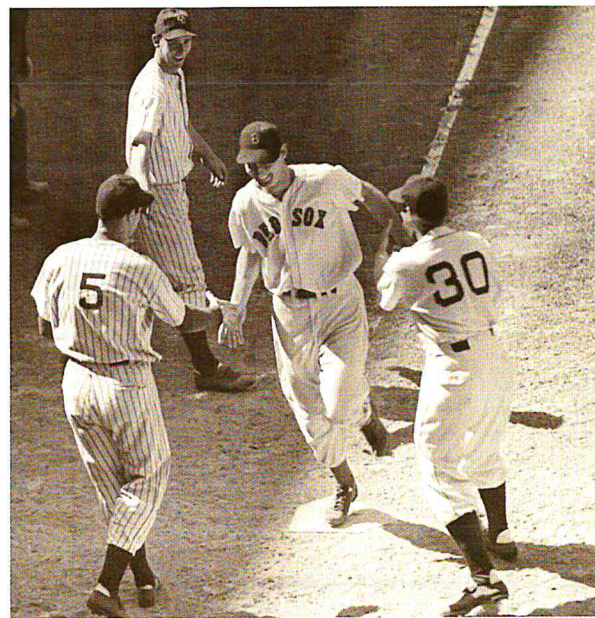
All-Star Games have been prolific at producing memorable moments, especially when the best players in the league are presented with the challenge of winning a game in the late innings. The following are two such games, won by heroes in the most dramatic of ways.

I was born May 4, 1941, just two months before that year's Midsummer Classic in Detroit's Briggs Stadium. At the All-Star break Joe DiMaggio, then in his sixth season, had just hit safely in the 48th game of his 56-game hitting streak. That streak mesmerized the nation more than any protracted baseball achievement did before the great Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa home run chase of 1998. But the 1941 All-Star Game was won by a young slugger who later became the big story in the second half of that magical year — Ted Williams, then in his third season.

The NL had won the 1940 All-Star Game, but had never won two consecutive games, and had never won in an AL park. That seemed about to change when the Nationals took a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the ninth. They led even though their starting lineup included only two future Hall of Famers (Johnny Mize and Arky Vaughan), whereas the Americans' starting lineup included six (DiMaggio, Williams, Bill Dickey, Bob Feller, Bobby Doerr and Joe Cronin).

With one out, Cleveland's Ken Keltner (who eight days later would help end DiMaggio's streak by making two terrific plays on hard-hit ground balls to third base) singled. He moved to second on a single by the Yankees' Joe Gordon. Then pitcher Claude Passeau of the Cubs walked the Senators' Cecil Travis to load the bases. Not wise. Next up was DiMaggio, a .357 hitter.

DiMaggio bounced what looked like a made-to-order double play grounder to short. Game over? Not so fast. Travis's hard slide into second caused the relay throw to pull the first baseman off the bag. A run scored and the tying run was at third. With two outs and the potential winning run at first, maximum trouble was at the plate — Williams, with his .405 average. On a 2-1 count, the man who would raise his average .001 by the end of the season, and who in his career hit more home runs in Detroit (55) than in any other city besides Boston, parked the ball in the right-field bleachers. The



Ted Williams' game-winning home run in the 1941 Midsummer Classic is an unforgettable moment in All-Star Game history.

game was over as Williams pranced like a colt around the bases. He would later recall this home run as "the most thrilling hit of my life."

I was nine years old when the All-Star Game was back where it began, in Comiskey Park, and again the game was decided by a last-inning home run by a future Hall of Famer. But this time the NL prevailed, 4-3. It was the first extra-innings All-Star Game and the first one nationally televised. It deserved to be.

Shagging flies in right field before the game, the Cardinals' switch-hitting Red Schoendienst, joking with Dick Sisler, Duke Snider and some others, said he was going to hit a home run into the right field upper deck. But in the 14th inning he faced a left-handed pitcher, so he batted right. Some of his teammates asked him if he was still going to homer into the right-field stands.

"No," said Schoendienst, "left field now." And on a 2-2 pitch, he did. ♦

George F. Will is a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and bestselling author of Men at Work and Bunts.

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